THE TIMES

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Junior ministers reported ready to quit

Revolt by Tory right on plan to scrap poll tax

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

JOHN Major was trying last night to head off his first serious revolt since becoming prime minister, as Conservative MPs became increasingly convinced that an announcement heralding the death of the poll tax is imminent.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, are planning to replace the community charge with a property tax based on capital values and there is growing expectation that the proposal will be adopted by the cabinet.

The plan, disclosed by *The Times* yesterday, would involve transferring important local government functions, including teachers' salaries, to the centre to reduce bills significantly and to win acceptance for the new tax.

Sources suggest that the final outcome would pay regard to the principle that everyone should make some contribution to local finance. The property tax would be based on the assumption that three adults lived in a household and discounts would be made for homes of only one or two adults.

Didn't you used to be a TORY MP?
DOWN WITH POLL TAX!
DOWN WITH POLL TAX!

As the prime minister prepared to make his biggest break so far with the policies of his predecessor, right-wing junior ministers were reported to be ready to resign if the property tax plan is given the go-ahead. Backbenchers stated openly that they would vote against such a tax. It is clear, however, that they represent a minority and it appeared last night that Mr Major was prepared to ride the rebellion. One senior backbencher, Michael Latham, said: "My instinctive feeling is that the party is now in the mood to scrap the poll tax altogether."

The prime minister told the Commons repeatedly yesterday that an announcement would be made soon, but the government is unlikely to give details in today's Commons debate arranged by the Opposition.

The community charge appeared last night to have few, if any, friends in the cabinet. Authoritative sources made plain that the Chancellor was not fighting to retain the charge. It was also said that Mr Lamont favoured a capital value property tax, stripped of the "head tax" element envisaged by Mr Heseltine in his original proposals to the cabinet committee.

Even Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who has been portrayed as defender of the poll tax in the cabinet, was said by Scottish Office sources to be ready to accept the introduction of a property tax based on capital values.

The apparent scuppering of one of Margaret Thatcher's flagship policies was, however, causing deep unease among some of her supporters and Tory MPs suggested that Michael Forsyth and Christopher Chope might resign from their posts.

Both issued statements, however, after consulting Richard Ryder, the Chief Whip. Mr Forsyth, the Scottish office minister of state, said: "I have every confidence that a collective decision will be taken by ministers which will command the support of the party and the country." Mr Chope, former leader of Wandsworth council, said: "The community charge is currently under review and I fully expect that if any changes are made they will command the full support of the government."

Conservative MPs are impatient for an announcement before Easter because Labour is making the most of the government's difficulties. Mr Major came under a barrage of questioning during prime minister's question time. He told Neil Kinnock: "You will be interested to know that we are making good progress and are on track for the announcement."

The Labour leader said the prime minister had said on Friday: "I think I am clear in my own mind which way we are going on the poll tax." Mr Kinnock asked: "So can you tell us today: do you want the floor tax or the roof tax? The bed and breakfast tax or the bedroom tax? The capital value tax or the extension tax? One tax or two taxes? Surely you can tell us what you want?"

● Many Tory MPs believe abolition of the poll tax would give a big boost to their electoral standing. An opinion poll last night put Labour in the lead for the first time since the middle of January. The ICM survey in *The Guardian* put Labour at 40 per cent, the Conservatives at 39 per cent, and the Liberal Democrats at 89 per cent.

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INSIDE

Major defies his critics

Britain's position in Europe would become untenable if it stood aside and was dragged along by other nations, John Major said in the Commons after a mixed reaction to his Bonn break with Mrs Thatcher's views ....Page 4

IRA accused

Four suspected IRA members on trial in The Netherlands accused of an attack on two Australian tourists in 1990 were being trained to inject "fresh blood" into the terror campaign on the continent, a court was told........Page 2

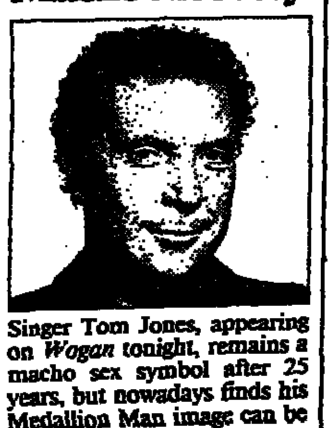
Boost for the pill

More women are taking the pill again after a decline in the early 1980s, according to an NOP survey. But it also showed that over 65 per cent of women aged 16 to 19 were not sexually active, suggesting a post-Aids morality....Page 3

Pretoria reform

Pretoria has announced plans to abolish racial discrimination in land and property rights and to help blacks own homes and farms.........Page 9

Macho modesty



Singer Tom Jones, appearing on *Wogan* tonight, remains a macho sex symbol after 25 years, but nowadays finds his Medallion Man image can be something of an embarrassment........Page 21

Pickard picked

Tony Pickard has been selected to captain Britain's Davis Cup tennis team. Pickard, the coach of Stefan Edberg, the No. 1 player in the world, previously captained Britain 16 years ago ..Page 42

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Looking to the future: Commandant Anne Spencer, who yesterday took up her post as director of the Women's Royal Naval Service. She is in command of 3,397 members

Stolen computer contained Gulf deception plan

*When a computer went missing in London, it is now known, the crucial deception of Iraq was under threat. **Michael Evans** reports from Kuwait*

The most closely guarded secrets of the allied campaign were stored in the laptop computer stolen from a car in West London last December. The computer contained details of the deception devised by General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of Operation Desert Storm, that convinced the Iraqis that an amphibious landing would be launched on Kuwait's east coast. The effectiveness of the deception was crucial to the success of the allied campaign.

When the computer was stolen, the only officers in the field who had been told about the scheme were division and brigade commanders. They learnt that the deception could involve redeploying all the US and British heavy armour across to the west of Kuwait to outflank the Iraqis, who were aiming their guns towards the Gulf and to the south.

Among the British contingents in Saudi Arabia, only a handful of officers were in the know. They were forbidden to mention the plan to their subordinates until mid-January and carried on training as if the main allied punch would be up the middle and east of Kuwait.

But there were others in the know who were not in the field. For a few weeks General Schwarzkopf's plan was at risk because of the theft of the computer. The significance of its loss has not previously been revealed. At the time there were suggestions that the theft provoked a security scare because the computer contained deployment positions for the allied forces.

Washington and Riyadh greeted with alarm the threat of a leak of General Schwarzkopf's plan to move the 7th Corps and the British 1st Armoured Division right across Saudi Arabia to the border with Iraq. The car broken into belonged to Wing Commander David Farquhar, based at RAF Strike Command in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, who was then the personal staff assistant to Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, joint commander of the British forces in the Gulf.

The computer was taken from the boot of Wing Commander Farquhar's car while it was parked at Acton in West London. It was anonymously returned to the Ministry of Defence three weeks later. The wing commander was moved to another job.

There was never any suggestion that the contents of the computer were passed to the Iraqis. In any event it became clear when the allied ground offensive began on February 21 that Iraq had been taken in by the deception.

In the field in Saudi Arabia, the only British officers who knew of the deception plan in mid-December were Major-General Rupert Smith, commander of the 1st Armoured Division, and his three brigadiers, Patrick Cordingley of the 7th Armoured Brigade, Christopher Hammerbeck, of the 4th Brigade, and Ian Durie, Commander of the Royal Artillery.

Brigadier Hammerbeck said: "I was briefed (by General Smith) in great secrecy about the deception plan in December. The plan was frightfully secret. I wasn't allowed to bring my staff in the know. When we started moving away from the marines (in mid-January), my staff knew the basic principle that we were going west, but even then they didn't get any details. It's the best secret I've ever kept, and I'm a naturally garrulous person."

The Iraqis remained convinced that the British 1st Armoured Division was with the US Marines in eastern Saudi Arabia. On the first day of the ground offensive Baghdad radio reported that the British had been driven back as they entered Kuwait.

Although the movement up and down the Gulf coast by the US Marines' assault ships was mainly part of the plan to keep the Iraqi's eyes fixed in that direction, an amphibious landing was never wholly ruled out. Since liberating Kuwait, allied commanders have become aware that a marine landing would probably have involved many American casualties. Although the coastal defences in Kuwait City were fairly primitive, some of the strongest Iraqi defensive positions were up on the hills on Mutla Ridge. These positions remained largely untouched by allied bombing.

Instant profit for power investors

By Martin Waller

PRIVATE investors who applied for the minimum £300 initial investment in the two electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen, were looking at immediate profits of more than £110 last night as the shares traded at unexpectedly high premiums on the London stock market.

The sharp rise, which saw both finish the day at far higher prices than City forecasts, was believed to be the result of heavy buying by continental European institutions. It could further embarrass the government, following last year's flotation of the electricity distributors which led to criticism that they were sold off too cheaply.

National Power ended at 137½p and PowerGen at 137p, against City predictions of 130p.

● Mr John Wakeham, 58, the energy secretary who carried out the electricity industry privatisation, announced that he would be leaving the Commons at the next general election.

Wakeham profile, page 4
Shares soar, page 25

Fear of martial law in Yugoslavia

From Roger Boyes and Dessa Trevisan in Belgrade

BORISAV Jovic, the Yugoslav federal president, yesterday called an emergency session of the state presidency, the collective voice of the six republics, to discuss national security, immediately fuelling speculation that the country is to be placed under martial law. But in an apparent attempt to defuse the tense atmosphere in Belgrade, the Serbian authorities last night released the opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic.

On television, Mr Jovic said he was calling the meeting at the request of Colonel-General Veljko Kadijevic, the defence minister. He said that the federal presidency was constitutionally the supreme commander of the armed forces and said it was in this capacity that he was calling the emergency meeting.

When Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, used federal troops to help put down an anti-communist demonstration, he spread alarm in the other Yugoslav republics. Croatia and Slovenia refused to attend the regular meeting of the collective presidency, insisting that the army should be used only in national or ethnic disputes.

Mr Jovic, a Serb who is close to Mr Milosevic, said Mr Milosevic's action had paralysed the normal functioning of the state presidency at a critical time and he gave a heavy hint of army discontent. The generals are plainly unhappy. Some 70 per cent of the general staff are Serbian and have been drawn, willingly or not, into the confrontation between Mr Milosevic and anti-communist protesters.

The chairmanship of the Yugoslav presidency passes from Serbia to Croatia on May 15. Both Croatia and Slovenia have separatist ambitions and are seeking a looser confederal Yugoslavia that would substantially weaken Serbia's power.

The fear that this is stirring up in the reformist wing of the political establishment was obvious in an appeal last night issued by the federal government. Federal prime minister Ante Markovic called for calm and stressed that the country's problems should be solved "without the use of force".

There is no precedent for martial law in Yugoslavia and, with conscripts drawn from all the republics, it would be difficult to implement. The Serbian parliament is to consider later this month special legislation that would allow

Continued on page 24, col 6

Heseltine to name Conservative areas

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, will today name 17 English councils which are at risk of being charge-capped for exceeding government spending limits. For the first time since the introduction of the poll tax the names of four Conservative-controlled local authorities — three counties and a shire district — will appear on the capping list.

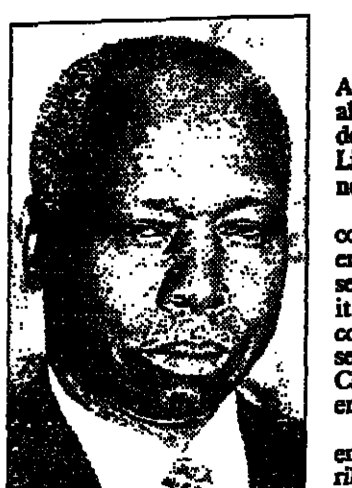
The announcement, four days before the deadline for councils to submit details of their budgets, is designed to demonstrate the government's determination to use its new capping powers to curb large poll tax rises.

Mr Heseltine will make it clear that even though the government is searching for an alternative to the community charge it expects councils to obey capping rules and collect the poll tax in the meantime. His statement is also timed to forestall an Opposition-inspired Commons debate on the poll tax this afternoon, in which Labour will renew its demand for the immediate abolition of the community charge.

Once Mr Heseltine has formally declared his intention to designate the 17 councils for capping they will have 28 days to respond. Those which want to challenge the move have the right to submit a revised figure. The four Conservative councils on his list will be the Royal County of Berkshire, Somerset, Warwickshire and Langbaurgh-on-Tees district, a politically "hung" council

Continued on page 24, col 1

Failed plot leaves US with unwanted army



Moi: received $5 million despite dubious policy

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

AMERICA is learning that yesterday's allies can be today's embarrassment as details emerge of a failed attempt to use Libyan mercenaries to overthow Colonel Muammar Gadaffi.

What started as an attempt to use the colonel's own troops against him has ended with Washington compelled to seek a haven for a Libyan guerrilla army it no longer wants. The United States conceived the idea of turning Libyans, sent to overthrow the government of Chad, against the colonel towards the end of the Reagan administration.

Details of the secret policy have emerged since a Libyan-sponsored guerrilla force defeated the government of Chad three months ago, forcing the Libyan dissidents to find a safe haven. The Libyan soldiers, taken prisoner in 1988 during fighting between Libya and Chad along their border, received American paramilitary training when they volunteered to fight in exchange for their release from prisoner-of-war camps.

The covert programme dovetailed with an open policy of lending significant military support to Chad as a buffer against Colonel Gadaffi's expansionism in Africa. Its failure recalls the longer-term problems of similar operations elsewhere and it had unforeseen effects on American human-rights policy towards Kenya.

"It's like backing the mujahidin in Afghanistan or the contras in Nicaragua," said Terrence Lyons, an Africa specialist at the Brookings Institution. "There is a certain responsibility toward them afterwards that nobody thought of. In this case we ended up sacrificing our position on human rights in Kenya." Human-rights policy towards Kenya was compromised when the United States was compelled to ask Nairobi to accept 350 of the now unemployed mercenaries who had been rejected by Zaire. To smooth their way, Washington paid $5 million (£2.7 million) which was publicly described as a reward for an improving Kenyan human rights record, a questionable improvement at best.

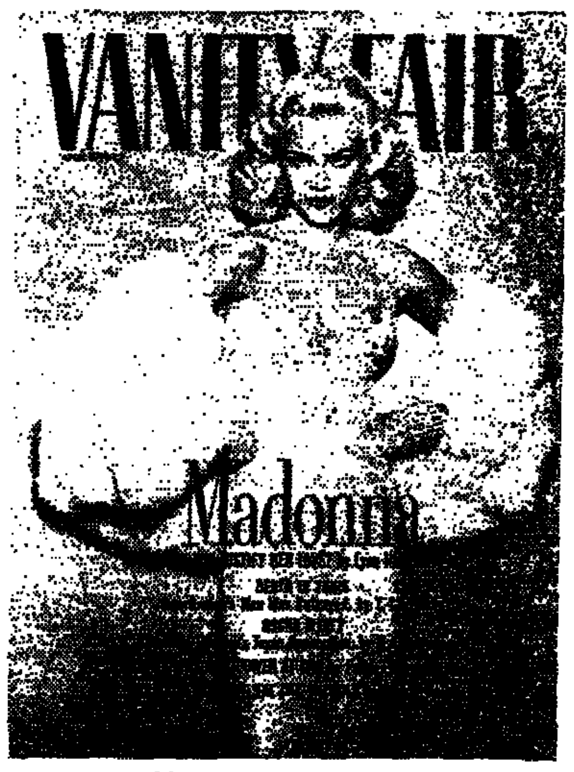
Washington provided the money despite a freeze on military aid to the government of Daniel arap Moi last year unless he agreed to release political prisoners and permit freedom of speech. *The New York Times* quoted a State Department official as saying the release of US aid to Kenya "somewhat" compromised the Bush administration's position but "we felt we had little choice", on humanitarian grounds.

Madonna's home seems to cheer her enormously. The seven-and-a-half-room apartment was renovated and furnished by Christopher Ciccone, and it is lovely – simple, yet lush throughout. The furnishings are mostly early French Deco, and they complement the art, which is primarily Cubist; there are wonderful paintings by the likes of Tamara de Lempicka and Léger and photographs by, among others, Kertész and Weston. "There are a lot of naked women in my house," says Madonna. In the hall she passes a Kertész of a nude woman squeezing her stomach. "That's like me," she says. "Always looking for fat."

Madonna is endearingly thorough about the tour ("This is my stereo," she says, opening a closet). She is like a child showing off her favorite dolls. "This is my prize," she says of a Picasso that hangs over her desk. "I don't usually like Dali, but I love this one," she says of a particularly beautiful painting, *The Veiled Heart*, which hangs in the living room.

Madonna's bedroom, a pale jewel box of a room, is at the end of the hall. "Every girl's dream," she says, leading the way into an enormous and extremely well-organized closet. "When I lived with Sean, he loved to ball up clothes," she says, looking at her neat rows of shoes. "I'd say, 'You twisted a Versace suit into a ball and *I can't bear it.*' I would follow him and take his things and hang them up. He'd say, 'Leave me alone. I want to do it this way.' But I just couldn't stand it."

"There are a lot of naked women in my house."



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Universities may face slowdown of expansion plans

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES will face an unexpected slowdown in their expansion plans if the Universities Funding Council accepts recommendations that are under consideration today for a three-year development scheme.

The funding council is committed to an announcement this month giving provisional allocations up to 1994-5 to allow universities to plan ahead. The recommendations would guarantee the money for only limited growth, however, while a new round of consultation begins on universities' longer-term plans. Although universities would be encouraged to enrol extra students for whom they would receive fee income alone, only 3,600 more funded places would initially be allocated by the council for 1992-3. Another 3,600 would be added in the autumn when government spending plans have been announced and the fresh consultation has been completed.

A new competitive bidding system devised by John Barron, the director of the Institute for Classical Studies at King's College, London, will be put before today's meeting. Those institutions that are most successful at recruiting "fees only" students would be rewarded with extra funding, although the system would also recognise high quality.

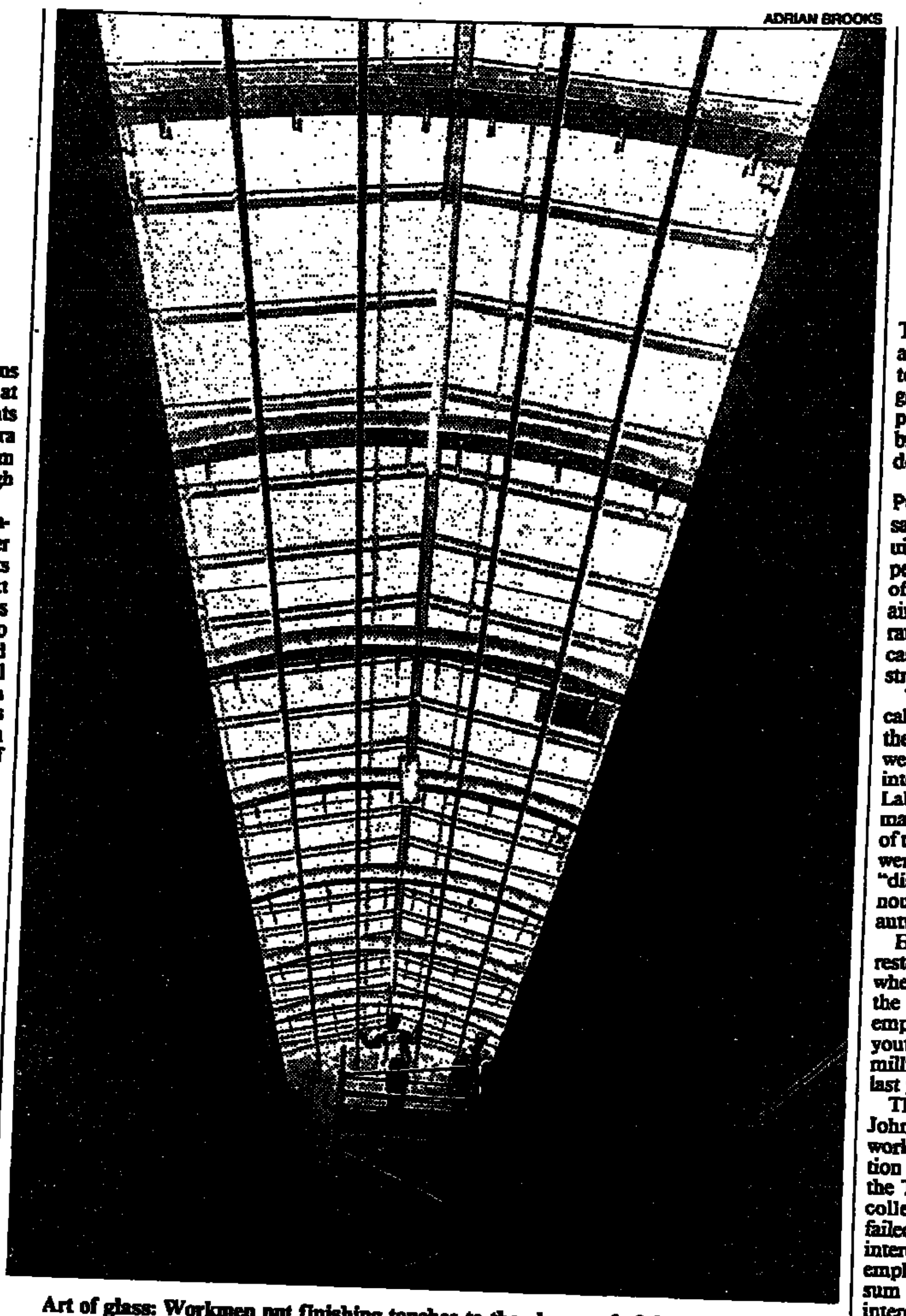
The universities sought increases of more than 20 per cent in the number of students to be funded over the next four years, but the council is sceptical about their ability to fill places in science and engineering. Even the full increase of 7,200 places in 1992-3 would represent less than 2.5 per cent growth at a time when there is no sign of student demand slackening.

Last month the council announced a 7 per cent increase in funded places for 1991-2, asking universities to take in extra students to reduce funding levels by 1.5 per cent. Some universities said that they would have to scale down their expansion plans unless allocations for the following years were more generous.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has promised additional capital funding for expansion, but has taken issue with vice-chancellors who maintain that they cannot afford to take more students without new sources of recurrent funds. The government's plans for 1992-3 allow for 17,000 more students in universities, polytechnics and colleges.

The Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council will begin to formulate its plans for 1992-3 next month.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Art of glass: Workmen put finishing touches to the glass roof of the £9.6 million light and humidity controlled Sackler galleries at the Royal Academy of Arts yesterday. Norman Foster, the architect, made an inspection of the galleries, which will be opened on June 10 by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh

Detectives in trial of six 'unreliable'

By STEWART TENDLER

FOURTEEN of the 16 detectives at the heart of the Birmingham Six case either lied or were unreliable witnesses, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

On the seventh day of the men's third appeal Michael Mansfield, QC, for five of the men, told the court that eight officers, including Detective Supt George Reade, in overall command of the case in 1974, had "plainly lied". Another six officers, including Detective Inspector John Moore, his second-in-command, were unreliable.

Mr Mansfield named a succession of other officers who were detective constables or sergeants in the West Midlands force at the time of the Birmingham bomb case and were involved in the conviction of the six.

The appellants – Richard McIlkenny, Patrick Hill, John Walker, Gerard Hunter, William Power and Hugh Callaghan – were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1975 for the IRA bombing of two Birmingham public houses.

Yesterday, at the close of his opening address, Mr Mansfield told the court the scientific evidence that showed two of the six had handled nitroglycerine was now unsatisfactory. Seven scientists were now claiming the tests could not be relied on. That was not, he said, an appeal that should be sent back to a jury.

He told the court that there was an abundance of evidence showing that the convictions were unsatisfactory. The scientific evidence and the doubts about the police evidence should make the court conclude there was reasonable doubt over the convictions.

Lord Gifford, QC, for Hunter, said science had been misused during the men's trial. It was "used to introduce into this case a conclusion of fact which was not justified even by the knowledge of 1974". The new evidence and analysis validated the evidence at the trial given by Dr Hugh Black of behalf of the defence.

He said the convictions were now lacking in credibility and must be considered unsafe and unsatisfactory. He told the judges: "There is no room in this case for making some nice distinction between the two epithets."

The appeal continues today.

Pay policy 'vital to bring down inflation rate'

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government, the CBI and the TUC are today urged to reach agreement on a general policy for pay in the private and public sectors to bring Britain's inflation rate down to German levels.

A report by the Institute for Public and Policy Research says that with wages continuing to increase by around 9 per cent in spite of ten months of rising unemployment, Britain's entry into the exchange-rate mechanism has made the case for a co-ordinated pay strategy even more urgent.

With both sides of industry calling on Norman Lamont, the chancellor, to act in next week's Budget to bring down interest rates, Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, said yesterday that tens of thousands of training places were at risk because of the "disastrous training cuts" announced in last November's autumn statement.

He said the £120 million restored two weeks ago nowhere near compensated for the loss. "It still leaves the employment training and youth training budget at £245 million less in real terms than last year."

The author of the report, John Grieve-Smith, who has worked in the economic section of the Cabinet Office and the Treasury, argues that free collective bargaining has failed because the collective interests of employers and employees do not match the sum of their individual interests.

He says employers and employees as a whole lose out, because money wages rise on average much faster than productivity resulting in higher inflation and reduced competitiveness.

Mr Grieve-Smith argues the government should "recognise its responsibility" for reaching agreement on pay policy with the CBI and the TUC not as a short term expedient but as part of a long-term strategy for economic management.

He says an independent statutory pay advisory commission should be established to monitor pay negotiations, assist in conciliation and as a last resort, refer a dispute for binding arbitration.

His views have been backed by senior union leaders and by the Campaign for Work who believe a tripartite economic assessment should be followed by an open economic debate with pay settlements squeezed into a three month period to prevent "leapfrogging".

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi International and adviser to the Campaign for Work claimed yesterday unemployment of three million by next year would cost British taxpayers £24 billion.

The organisation called for the immediate establishment of a new community programme to offer 200,000 temporary jobs of up to 25 hours a week at the going rate, increased expenditure on adult training and improved welfare benefits for the unemployed.

Yesterday the Unemployment Unit said there were clear signs the government plans to introduce a temporary work programme in response to the "accelerating crisis of mass unemployment."

Prosecutor demands 20-year terms for four IRA suspects

From MARK FULLER IN ROERMOND

THE Dutch public prosecutor yesterday demanded maximum 20-year prison sentences for four suspected members of the IRA who stand accused of murdering two Australians in the town of Roermond last year. Hubert Laumen made the plea at the end of an emotional summing up on the sixth day of the trial of Donna Maguire, aged 25, Paul Hughes, aged 27, Gerard Harte, aged 27, and Sean Hick, aged 30.

All four defendants have been charged with murder and/or complicity to murder the two lawyers in Roermond in May 1990. The defendants are also accused of belonging to an illegal organisation, the IRA. The four have denied all of the charges.

Mr Laumen said: "Here in Holland two people were killed in an absolutely senseless way" whose only use was to bring publicity for the IRA. The two victims, he said, were no longer in pain but as for the lives of their partners "no one can guess". He went on: "The tragedy and terrible destiny of these people chills you to the bone and certainly everybody here realises it could happen to all of us."

Earlier he had told the court that the four were being tained to inject fresh blood into the IRA's campaign on the Continent. The four were being trained by Desmond Grew, aged 37, an "active and dedicated terrorist" until he was shot dead in an SAS ambush in October 1990.

He said that Grew was clearly in charge of killing British military subjects or of managing an active service unit to this effect. "But he was getting old. There had to be fresh blood to get blood. That was why Grew was training fresh blood." Mr Laumen said that an IRA campaign on the Continent, begun in 1989 after Grew had been released from prison, had come to an abrupt end after the arrest of the four suspects in June. Grew could not continue attacks because the structure of the unit had been destroyed.

Laumen: "Tragedy chills you to the bone"

Mr Laumen said that Grew had met Mr Hick and Mr Harte in Portlaoise prison where all three were serving sentences at the beginning of the 1980s. He outlined forensic and ballistic evidence linking Grew and the four to a series of IRA attacks on British targets in Germany and The Netherlands. The suspects and Grew allegedly planned and carried out the attacks from two safe houses.

Mr Laumen concluded that Harte, Maguire and Hick "were active volunteers of the Irish Republican Army ... participating in a tight and well-planned operation as an active service unit which aimed to kill British military subjects."

Inquest on MP halted after plea

By RONALD FAUX

THE inquest on Mike Carr, Labour MP for Bootle, who died suddenly last July, was suspended and referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday.

Roy Barter, the Merseyside coroner, halted the hearing under rules that empower a coroner to send the evidence to the DPP if he considered that an offence such as manslaughter may have been been committed. The move came after an application from counsel for Mr Carr's family.

Mr Carr, aged 43, collapsed on the pavement. An ambulance took him to Walton hospital, Liverpool, but according to his widow he was sent home after a doctor diagnosed an attack of hyperventilation. Soon after, his condition deteriorated and he was taken back to hospital where he was found dead.

Frances Ryan, a nurse at the hospital, had said that she had failed to pass on information about chest pains Mr Carr had been suffering.

The inquest was adjourned until June 10.

Talks on air travel protection

Talks aimed at finding a way of affording protection to scheduled passengers if an airline collapses began at the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday *(Harvey Elliott writes)*.

Officials involved in the talks, held on the instructions of Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, gave a warning that it could take a long time before any suitable scheme could be introduced. Anyone booking a package holiday through a tour operator is now protected under a bonding scheme. Scheduled passengers, whose contract is direct with the airline, have no such protection.

Phone costs

Health authorities could save between £10 million and £30 million a year by managing telephone services more efficiently, according to a report from the National Audit Office published today. The report shows that some hospitals are paying for lines they do not own including some private business lines.

Morrison case

The prosecution in the trial of Danny Morrison at Belfast crown court has completed its final submissions. The former Sinn Fein publicity chief and six others deny plotting to murder Alexander Sandy Lynch in January last year. Their lawyers will begin their final submissions when the trial resumes today.

Libel damages

The libel law firm Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners and Alasdair Pepper, a solicitor, won "substantial" damages from *Private Eye* in the High Court yesterday over a libel by the magazine in October. The magazine accepted that the allegations complained of were false.

Guns trial told of bomb claim

AN IRISH student told police arresting him after a car chase through north London not to open his car boot because "we might all be blown to hell", the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

"I said I did not want to open that boot – there might be a bomb in it," Kevin O'Donnell, aged 20, told the court.

O'Donnell, of Coalisland, Co Tyrone, denies possessing rifles with intent to endanger life. Two loaded Kalashnikov rifles are said to have been found on his car's rear seat.

Yesterday, on the fifth day of his trial, O'Donnell told the court: "I am not a member of the IRA. I do not support the IRA. I come from a devout Catholic family. They do not support the taking of life.

"I have never in my life touched an explosive substance. I have no knowledge of explosives or explosions," he said. Asked how he thought traces of explosives were found on his clothes, O'Donnell said that they must have come from contact with the car or the rifles.

O'Donnell, an agricultural student at the Harper Adams college in Shropshire, has said that he was horrified upon finding that the car he had left near his cousin's London home had been used to store the rifles and other items. He had been on his way to dump them when stopped by police.

O'Donnell said that after the rifles were discovered, one police officer told him: "You should be hung for this." O'Donnell added: "He was very aggressive towards me, saying, 'You are nothing but an Irish bastard. You will get 20 years for this'." O'Donnell said that he had called the officer a Brit bastard back.

O'Donnell said that he had decided to tell the court the truth about that night although there were dangers that might occur to him. "I am caught between the devil and the deep blue sea," he said.

Luck of Irish falters at the hurdles

By ALAN HAMILTON

IGNORE, for the moment, Dublin as this year's European city of culture. The fulcrum of Irish intellectual endeavour has this week moved east for its annual invasion of Cheltenham in the Royal Ascot of National Hunt Racing.

Celtic hopes soared to the leaden, overcast sky in the very first race of the three-day meeting when the Irish-trained horse Destriero romped home by four lengths in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle to win £27,000 for its aptly named owner, Elizabeth Furlong.

After fielding 166 winners at Cheltenham since the war, the Irish have had a dismal record there in recent years. Yesterday's early promise was dashed in the main race of the day, the Smurfit Champion Hurdle, sponsored by a Dublin waste-paper company.

None of the four Irish horses entered made any showing and a big late rush of betting on one of them, the *Illiad*, proved misplaced. The honours went to the thoroughly English Morley Street, and enough failed Irish betting slips littered the ground to keep the Smurfit company in business for a year.

At least the winning owner, Michael Jackson, received an Irish Trophy, a bronze racing tableau from the hands of the Dublin sculptress Janet McGloughlin-Minch. It was, however, small consolation for the sad fact that it is seven years since Dawn Run last won the Champion Hurdle for Ireland.

A disappointing day's racing did little to dampen the extravagant Irish temperament. Across the Irish Sea, National Hunt racing rivals the Roman Church as the state religion. This fact was confirmed by the number of punters at Cheltenham with dog collars peeping from beneath their anoraks.

Unlike Royal Ascot, Cheltenham is not a festival of dressing to impress. There are only two basic outfits: those green wax country jackets which, since becoming fashionable among the middle classes are no longer affordable by gamekeepers: and the brown suit, worn beneath a bare head and rugged Irish face. Cheltenham, apart from the jumps, is also a meeting for serious devotees of conspicuous consumption. During the three days the caterers expect to feed 100,000 visitors with two tons of fresh salmon, 15,000 bottles of champagne, and 300,000 pints of beer, much of it, naturally, Guinness.

But the man most in the thoughts of punters was not Irish. Fulke Walwyn died last month after training an astonishing 211 Cheltenham winners, including four Gold Cups and two Champion Hurdles. Yesterday he had a race named after him, but there was not even an Irish horse in the field.

Racing, pages 38, 39, 42

Report says BBC 'unfair'

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for using television airtime to advertise its magazines, says a major report into cross-media promotion.

The BBC's on-air promotion of magazines such as *Radio Times* and *Food and Drink* meant it was guilty of unfair competition which put at a disadvantage rival magazine publishers who did not have access to low-cost television promotion, said John Sadler, chairman of the year-long inquiry on which the report was based.

"The BBC has exceeded by quite a wide margin the extent to which it is proper for media companies to promote their other media interests," Mr Sadler said.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, welcomed the report, but said he would take further consultation before recommending a referral. The BBC, which has been told by the Home Office that it must raise £72 million a year from the commercial exploitation of its assets, said the idea of a reference to the Commission seemed "particularly perverse". James Arnold-Baker, chief executive of BBC Enterprises, said: "[The report] gives the impression that two government departments are pulling in opposite directions on this issue."

He said BBC Enterprises invested £45 million a year in BBC programmes, which far outweighed the sum raised from on-air promotion of magazines. The Corporation should not be prevented from promoting magazines directly linked to its programme output, as it was in the interest of the licence payer, he said.

The Home secretary, Kenneth Baker, is to discuss the issue with the BBC's director-general, Michael Checkland, and chairman Marmaduke Hussey. The inquiry, set up to study promotion in newspapers of their proprietors' other commercial interests added the BBC to its agenda after complaints by rival magazine companies.

Media, page 15

Buying The Times overseas Austria Sch 32; Belgium B Frs 60; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 220; Cyprus 90 cents; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Mkk 12.00; France F 11.00; W Germany DM 4.00; Gibraltar 80p; Greece Dr 300; Holland Gl 4.00; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 3,000; Luxembourg Lf 55; Madeira Esc 220; Malta 43c; Morocco Dir 15.00; Norway Kr 14.00; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 220; Spain Pes 220; Sweden Skr 14.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.50; Tunisia Din 1.20; USA $3.00.

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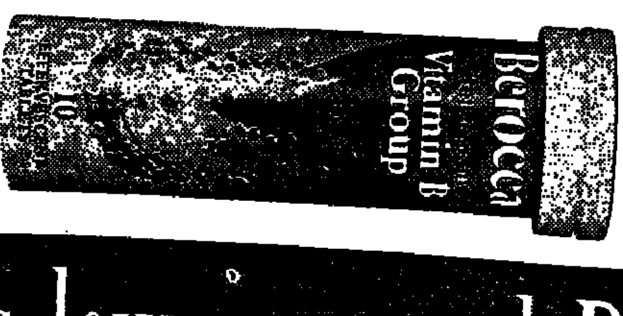

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More women using the pill after decline during 1980s

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE women are using the contraceptive pill again after a decline in the early 1980s, according to a survey published yesterday.

The NOP survey of more than 1,000 women aged 16 to 44 also showed, however, that over 65 per cent of women aged 16 to 19 were not sexually active, suggesting a new morality after the threat of Aids.

Nearly one woman in three uses the pill compared with one in four in 1987. In spite of publicity promoting safe sex, however, only 4 per cent of women use both the pill and the sheath.

The research shows that women using the pill tend to be older than those in the 1980s, reflecting the tendency for women to marry and have children later in life. The trend in the past decade towards adopting permanent birth control methods also appears to have slowed down, with fewer women having sterilisations or partners having vasectomies.

The study, commissioned by Schering Health Care, a contraceptive pill manufacturer, also showed a surprising reluctance to try new contraceptive methods such as the ring, the implant or the patch.

Nearly three-quarters of the women questioned said that they would not be prepared to try the vaginal ring — a rubber ring, inserted in the vagina, that releases hormones. Fewer than a third were interested in trying the implant — a soft, flexible 3cm-long rod inserted under the arm and which also releases hormones. Slightly more than a third were prepared to try the contraceptive patch — a sticking plaster that is placed on the buttocks and releases hormones.

The survey found considerable ignorance about the so-called "morning after" pill, with only one woman in ten knowing that it could be used up to 72 hours after a contraceptive risk. Two out of five women believed that it had to be taken within 24 hours of unprotected sex.

Almost half of all women aged 16 to 19 who were sexually active used the pill, 10 per cent used the pill and the sheath, 7 per cent used the sheath and 1 per cent used the coil. One per cent used the rhythm method, 3 per cent withdrawal and 38 per cent used no contraception. Older women tended to use the pill less and the sheath more. Women over 25 also used the coil or they or their partner were sterilised. The most satisfactory methods of contraception were vasectomy and sterilisation, folowed by the coil and the pill. The sheath was the least satisfactory method.

"Attitude towards the sexual climate did, however, indicate that Aids has had some effect on women's views," the survey said. "Women are becoming more aware of the possible threat to heterosexuals, with a greater proportion saying they were worried about the risks attached to their own and their partner's sexual behaviour, especially those in younger age groups."

Professor Michael Adler, Aids specialist at the Middlesex hospital in London, said: "It is worrying that nearly 10 per cent of sexually active teenage girls are not using any form of contraception.

"They are at risk not only from HIV [the virus that causes Aids] and other sexually transmitted diseases, but may also have an unwanted pregnancy."

'Dithering' over jail riot report

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE prison department was dithering over the Woolf report that called for better training for governors in dealing with riots, Brendan O'Friel, the Prison Governors' Association chairman and governor of Strangeways during the riot last year, said yesterday.

Mr O'Friel told the association's annual conference near Rugby, Warwickshire, that the prison department seemed to be prevaricating over the judge's recommendation. "The delay is very worrying, particularly as the department insisted during the Woolf hearings that its approach was right."

He also accused the department of failing to promote the data about his recommendations within the service. Just two copies of the 600-page document had been circulated around the 123 jails in England and Wales. Governors remained confused as to how much authority they had.

O'Friel: "Worrying delay over recommendation"

Sperm donors offered counselling

By BILL FROST

AS CONTROVERSY continued to focus on the "virgin birth" affair it emerged yesterday that sperm donors are to be offered detailed psychological counselling from September to ensure that they understand the full implications of their actions. The new Statutory Licensing Authority, which will operate to safeguard the welfare of the child, said the provision was included in a strict code of conduct covering clinics offering artificial insemination to single women.

Flora Goldhill, the authority's chief executive, said: "The law prevents donors being told anything that might allow them to identify children they have fathered. That can cause enormous anguish if the donor suddenly develops parental curiosity after a few years or so."

Many donors have tried to find out about children they have fathered. When told they have no right to such information, the effects, particularly on those in a childless or broken marriage, can be psychologically very damaging for the male parent, Mrs Goldhill said.

Counsellors will stress to donors that they have no statutory right to know the fate of their offspring; that they should prepare themselves for the possibility of experiencing "an all-but insatiable curiosity about their children"; and that the children themselves could be undergoing similar traumas about their identity.

Under the provisions of the Human Fertility and Embryology Act, passed last November, the child has no right to discover who his or her father was.

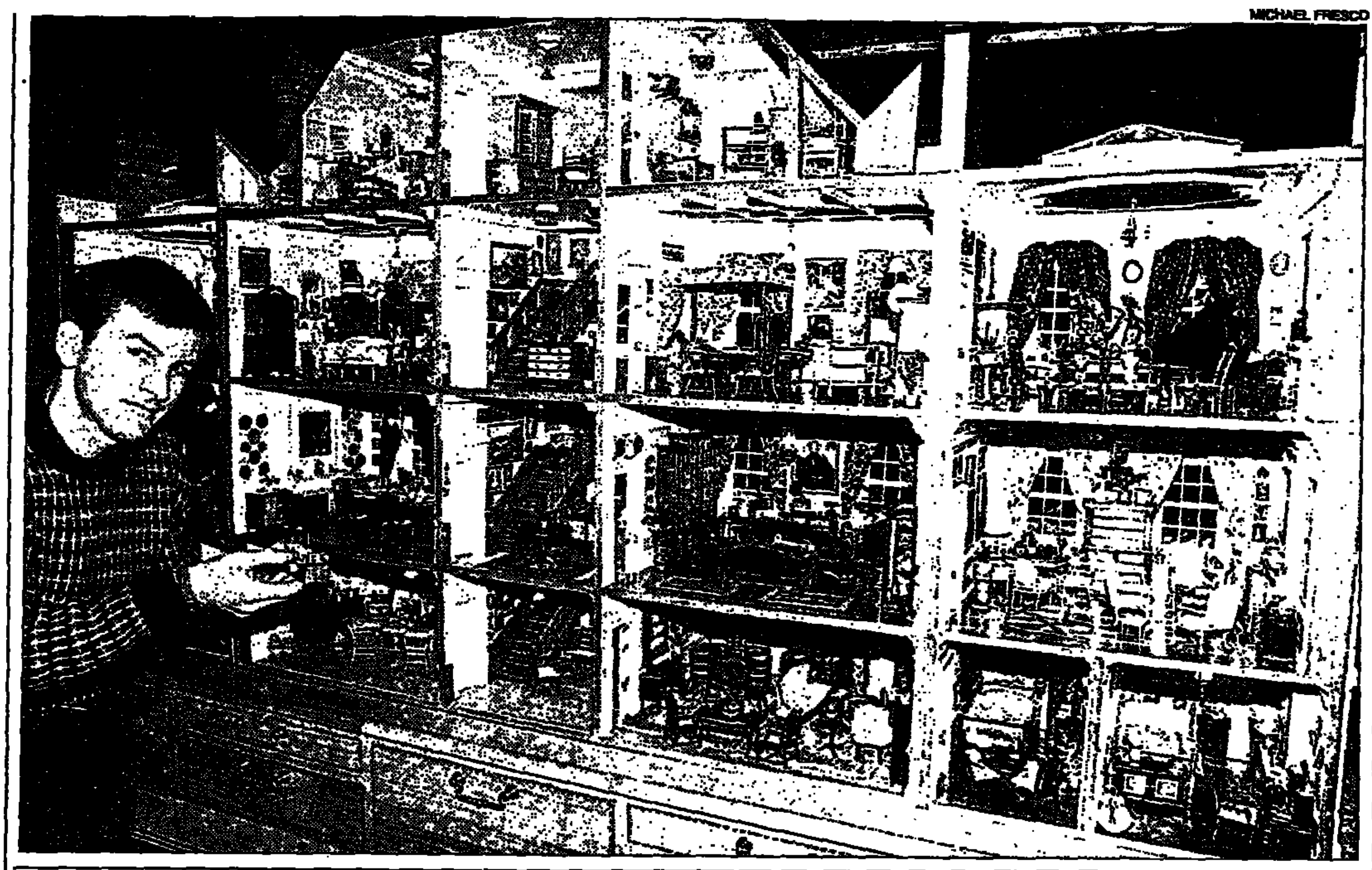
Mrs Goldhill said: "At the age of 18 he, or she, can approach us. We can offer counselling and, at a later stage, a broad-brush pen portrait of the young person's father. But the act does not allow us to identify the father to the child." Conservative and Labour MPs alike have said the quality of family life is further jeopardised by legislation that deprives fathers and children alike.

Clinicians, however, fear that laws enabling donors to know the identity and family circumstances of their children, and vice versa, could backfire disastrously. Three years ago the Swedish authorities decided that the identity of sperm donors should be made known to both mother and child alike. Donations dropped by 75 per cent, leaving many clinics with insufficient supplies to continue their work.

It was thought that many potential donors were put off by the possibility of being confronted by a child, fathered years earlier, who might want both emotional and financial support. Future paternity suits against donors in Britain were unlikely to succeed, Professor Leonard Lee, dean of the law faculty at the London School of Economics, said yesterday. "Any such suit would be a non-starter. There are no provisions to cover such a claim."

Leading article, page 17

MICHAEL FRESCO



Paul Wood, creator of what is believed to be the biggest doll's house made in Britain in modern times, examining the masterpiece he made in a prison cell using only a craft knife and a hacksaw blade. The 16-room house, made by Mr Wood, aged 27, during a four-year term for fraud, consists of 7,500 pieces of wood and its contents include tiny cups and saucers and paintings. The house is on permanent show at the London Toy and Model Museum, where staff say it is worth at least £50,000.

Nature points to perfect nappy

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MOTHERS who are planning "immaculate" as well as natural conceptions could soon be dressing their offspring in the perfect nappy.

More than 15 years of research by one of the world's biggest health care companies has identified a remarkably suitable material from nature that will be familiar to Irish crofters and gardeners alike. Researchers say that peat moss excels at absorbing liquid, soaking up 12 times its own weight.

The possibility that it could be used to keep babies dry has emerged from studies at Johnson and Johnson's laboratories in Montreal.

The moss, harvested from several thousands of acres of bogland leased in Quebec, is being milled and made into lightweight sanitary towels. The company is concentrating on that product but says that moss could be used for nappies and wound dressings.

Helen O'Hara, of the Women's Environmental Network in London, expressed concern because of the plight of peat bogs worldwide. Britain has lost about 95 per cent of its peat bogs, mainly to horticultural products. Johnson and Johnson said, however, that Canada had immense reserves and the company planned to use only a tenth of 1 per cent of the annual growth.

House prices predicted to rise 66% over five years

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE prices in the UK are predicted to rise by an average of 66 per cent over the next five years as the housing market recovers from the slump through falling inflation and interest rates.

The Housing Mortgage Corporation, in its latest house price forecasts published yesterday, said there was likely to be a steady increase each year rather than the spectacular rises seen in many parts of the country in the last boom period from 1985 to 1988-9, when prices doubled and showed increases of up to 40 per cent in a single year, contributing to the equally dramatic bust of the past two years. As the figures show, East Anglia and the West Midlands achieved the highest increases of about 125 per cent, but in East Anglia values fell sharply after they peaked.

Over the next five years price rises will vary considerably, ranging from only 26 per cent in the North and 39 per cent in Scotland to 90 per cent in East Anglia as that region recovers strongly once more. The South-West is predicted to show a rise of 80 per cent, compared with 74 per cent in the East Midlands, 73 per cent in the Midlands and 72 per cent in Wales. In Greater London the increase is forecast to be 72 per cent, slightly higher than the rest of the South-East (68 per cent).

The corporation said that even with lower expected price rises, people in the North, Scotland and Northern Ireland would find homes much more affordable than those in the rest of the UK. Looking at the whole of the country, it said that homes would become slightly more affordable between now and 1994 before becoming harder to buy again in 1995 and 1996.

That was based on a new "affordability" index drawn up by the corporation, which compares real disposable income after tax, national insurance and inflation, with the cost of buying a home in each region.

REGIONAL HOUSE PRICES (£) ANNUAL

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
North	24,464	26,671	29,082	32,373	41,509	48,729
Yorks/Humber	24,794	26,907	29,206	34,985	48,263	52,429
East Midlands	27,241	30,192	34,172	44,396	56,541	56,001
East Anglia	32,813	38,364	45,739	64,217	73,994	64,418
Gtr London	47,251	58,292	71,826	89,159	96,163	94,944
Rest of S East	43,539	51,396	62,744	82,713	94,389	86,634
South West	34,800	39,642	46,684	64,419	76,088	69,738
West Midlands	27,281	29,886	33,998	47,022	59,908	60,710
North West	26,383	28,829	30,879	36,434	48,402	55,794
Wales	26,945	28,976	32,022	38,183	52,129	54,490
Scotland	29,586	31,365	33,442	36,037	42,414	46,601
N Ireland	26,694	29,036	30,441	31,779	33,184	34,544
UK	33,272	37,953	44,307	56,512	67,463	66,297

REGIONAL HOUSE PRICES (£) ANNUAL (PROJECTED)

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
North	46,722	48,619	51,532	54,174	56,296	58,906
Yorks/Humber	53,127	59,035	66,344	72,865	79,289	86,892
East Midlands	56,911	65,747	74,416	80,638	88,402	99,073
East Anglia	63,800	71,518	81,912	93,258	105,649	121,396
Gtr London	99,036	111,881	120,812	130,404	146,790	169,994
Rest of S East	92,876	106,658	116,249	124,356	137,778	156,380
South West	77,865	93,282	105,241	112,853	124,253	140,597
West Midlands	64,354	74,554	83,541	91,671	100,301	111,562
North West	59,485	66,076	73,093	80,008	85,714	92,598
Wales	58,517	63,618	72,204	79,488	87,232	97,484
Scotland	48,960	53,168	57,278	61,048	64,496	67,888
N Ireland	36,658	43,588	50,219	53,866	56,826	58,047
UK	68,598	77,924	86,076	93,110	102,217	114,060

Source: HMC House Price Forecasts March 1991.

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Major stands firm in the face of Ridley warnings

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE

BRITAIN'S position in Europe would become untenable if it stood aside and was dragged along by other nations, the prime minister said yesterday as Conservative doubts over the future of the Community resurfaced in the wake of his speech in Bonn.

John Major was speaking in the Commons in the face of a mixed reaction to his speech on Monday which marked a clear break with the stance of his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher. He repeated his opposition to the Delors prescription for Europe.

While MPs from all sides, including Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former foreign secretary, welcomed Mr Major's remarks as a "sea change", Nicholas Ridley, who resigned from the cabinet over the Community, voiced misgivings, suggesting that Mr Major was creating the impression that he was going to agree with everything.

Mr Ridley said on the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "There are a lot of things he should not agree with ... If he creates the impression that he is going to agree with a single currency or a social charter or a common defence policy or common foreign policy, then I fear he is deceiving the Germans. There is no way he can get any of that through the Commons."

On the same programme Sir Geoffrey, the former deputy prime minister, said: "There is certainly a sea change in Britain's approach to Europe." Asked about Mrs Thatcher's warning that Germany could become dominant in Europe, he said: "I think that is the perfectly wrong way of putting it ... The whole process of European integration has been designed to accommodate that — to make it possible for us to be working as partners together, with less fear of being dominated because we are working together."

On Mrs Thatcher's concern about Britain losing sovereignty, he said: "That is to be haunted by fears rather than dominated by the determination to make a more successful partnership. We are creating a partnership, not contemplating a divorce, building bridges, not drawing lines."

Ridley: Major must not agree with everything

In the Commons, Mr Major again emphasised that Britain must be at the "very heart" of the European Community, playing a leading role in decision making. He said: "There are only three ways to go in the Community: to leave, which is unthinkable; to stand aside and let ourselves be dragged along by others, which is untenable; or to be at the very heart of the Community and help frame the decisions — and that is our policy." A number of European countries were now moving closer to Britain on proposals for economic and monetary union. The Delors proposals were not acceptable to the House or to him, he added.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, congratulated Mr Major on the change "in both tone and substance". Mr Ashdown said: "If you do as you say and place Britain at the heart of Europe, play a constructive part in steps towards a single currency, political and foreign policy integration, you can count on the united support of these benches — even if you have to cope with splits on your own."

Mr Major sidestepped an invitation from the Conservative MP Nicholas Budgen to say whether he favoured a single currency. The prime minister said that Britain's proposals for economic and monetary union had been set out in detail. "There is now very welcome evidence that a number of European nations are following our proposals and moving closer to us." Mr Major said the Delors proposals were not generally acceptable in the Commons "and they are not acceptable to me".

Talks on training Kuwaitis

The government is discussing with the Kuwaitis the terms and conditions under which it will resume providing training facilities for Kuwaiti police and armed forces, the prime minister said during questions.

Asked about attacks on Palestinians, John Major said that the Kuwaiti authorities had made clear that they would not tolerate retaliation. To a large extent law and order had been restored.

Mackay to see Dalai Lama

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is to meet the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, when he visits the United Kingdom next week, John Major told MPs.

Tim Devlin, Tory MP for Stockton South, had asked why, as it was government policy to stand up for small countries, the prime minister would not meet the Dalai Lama. Mr Major said that it was a private visit.

Ribble victor

Mike Carr who won the Ribble Valley by-election last week for the Liberal Democrats took his seat in the Commons.

Tourism call

The prime minister rejected a call at question time from Conal Gregory (York, C) to appoint a minister for tourism.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign Office. Debates on Opposition motions on the poll tax and on family hardship.
Lords (2.30): Debates on the role of parents and governors in education and on government statistics.

Political fixer supreme bids House farewell

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

John Wakeham, who is to leave the Commons at the next election, has been chief whip, leader of the Commons and energy secretary. But he will be remembered more by the title he once awarded himself as the minister for stopping the government doing silly things.

Mr Wakeham, aged 58, is the true Westminster animal, happy to be known as the best political fixer of his generation. Nobody has had more influence on the careers of his fellow MPs than he had as chief whip. Few have been his equal at cutting deals in cabinet committees. But his work has been performed behind the scenes. He has never been a despatch box hero; nor, despite his relaxed manner, has he been a media star.

To the public he has not been as well known as many of his contemporaries. Only when he nearly became a victim of the Brighton bomb in 1984, losing his first wife Roberta and sustaining appalling injuries to his legs that have cursed him with pain ever since, did he become a national figure. The legacy of those injuries has certainly played a part in his decision to retire from the Commons. But so perhaps has the departure of Margaret Thatcher.

It is the passing of a dynasty: Tebbit, Parkinson, Ridley and Younger are going next time. It is no surprise under a 47-year-old prime minister that he is joining them. But do not expect him to be lost to politics.

Apart from a period during the 1987 election when he made an uncharacteristic mess of a radio phone-in, John Wakeham has been one of Mrs Thatcher's closest adjutants, one of the few capable of persuading her to a particular course of action. His warm and popular second wife, Alison, who helped to nurse him to recovery after Brighton, knows the political world nearly as well as he does.

Before the cabinet trooped in and told Mrs Thatcher that the game was up, Mr Wakeham had been drafted in to run her campaign in the second round of the leadership election. Had his skills been pressed into action in the first round, many Tories believe he would have delivered enough votes to her to have made that second round unnecessary.

The abiding memory of John Wakeham in the Commons, though few doubt he will play an important role in the Lords in years to come, will be as chief whip, feet up on the sofa, puffing on a cigar, warning MPs in the most amiable ways of the possible consequences of their actions while getting across a more brutal message.

When the government was in trouble over the top salaries review he called in forty or fifty doubters and asked them if they really wanted to paddle round the country in August trying to save their seats. At the same time he maintained a calm enough public profile not to let Labour know that the party was in real trouble. Seventeen Labour MPs went off home and the government squeaked home by seventeen.

Judicial peers want end to mandatory 'life'

By JOHN WINDER

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LORD Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and other peers with legal experience joined the official Opposition in the House of Lords last night in backing a move by an independent peer, Lord Nathan, to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder.

Lord Campbell of Alloway (C) said that government failure to provide for abolition in the criminal justice bill beggared belief.

Lord Richard, for the Labour Opposition, said that his party would support Lord Nathan's proposed amendment to the bill. "The argument seems to me to have much to commend it, particularly against the background of our proposals for a sentencing council."

Moving the second reading, Earl Ferrers, home office minister, said that the bill would make the criminal justice system better, fairer and more in line with present-day thought. The main purpose was to reform sentencing practice and the way sentences were determined and carried out.

The government was not asking for uniformity of sentence, but for consistency of approach. It would resist rigid sentencing rules that would require sentences to be within a narrow range of options.

There were many offences, particularly those of a sexual or violent character for which the only fitting punishment was prison. However, it could often be an expensive way of making a bad person worse. Community penalties cost much less and could be just as, if not more, effective.

Lord Richard said that Labour regarded the bill as a missed opportunity. The criteria for sentencing were to be reformed, but without what Labour regarded as essential: a sentencing council.

The Labour proposal would be for a council comprised of the Lord Chief Justice, not fewer than four judges and such advisers as they might appoint. Such a council would have little chance of encroaching on judicial freedom. They needed greater consistency in sentencing practice and the public needed reassurance that it was being protected.

Prison for fine defaulters should be abolished altogether, except where other means of enforcing fines were impracticable.

He condemned as a gimmick the proposals to privatise prison establishments. That could lead to the development of an industry with a financial interest in expanding the prison estate, and that would run counter to the government's stated policy of reducing the prison population.

Hain to stand for Labour

The Neath by-election where Labour will be defending a majority of more than 20,000 is to be held on April 4 (Robert Morgan writes). It was caused by the death in January of Donald Coleman who had held the seat since 1964. The machinery was put in motion yesterday when the writ was moved in the Commons.

Labour's candidate is Peter Hain, aged 41, the former Young Liberal activist and anti-apartheid campaigner. He sprang to national prominence during the early Seventies when he was involved in campaigns to stop tours by South African rugby and cricket sides. After joining the Labour party he fought Putney in the general elections of 1983 and 1987.

The other candidates so far are Richard Evans, Conservative, David Lloyd, Liberal Democrat, and Dewi Evans, Plaid Cymru.

● General election: D.R. Coleman (Lab), 27,612; M.R.T. Howe (C), 7,034; J. Warman (SDP/All), 6,132; H. John (Pl C), 2,792. Lab maj: 20,578.

Democrats will raise petrol cost

THE Liberal Democrats committed themselves yesterday to raise petrol prices "substantially" as part of their strategy to wean people out of cars on to an improved public transport (Sheila Gunn writes).

The party also promised to deter car drivers through local road pricing schemes, the end to all tax privileges for company cars, possible licence endorsements for parking offences and stricter pollution controls. However *Vehicles for Change*, the Liberal Democrats' transport strategy paper, balanced its harsher measures by spending the higher tax revenues on better train and bus services and phasing out vehicle excise duty.

The document, to be debated at the party's spring conference at Nottingham this weekend, condemned the government for lacking a coherent transport policy.

Federal green paper 19: *Vehicles for Change* (Liberal Democrat Publications, 8 Fordington Green, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1GB; £4).

Heseltine adds to his policy team

WHITEHALL

TWO policy experts have been appointed by Michael Heseltine to assist in the privatisation of the property services agency and to advise ministers on planning polices for south-east England (Richard Ford writes).

The appointments, which were announced yesterday, mean that there are now seven full and part-time advisers in the environment department providing specialist and political assistance to ministers.

Sir Peter Levene, whom Mr Heseltine as defence secretary head hunted to be chief of defence procurement, is to work in the environment department for two days a month, advising on commercial and financial matters, particularly the proposed privatisation of the property services agency. He will be unpaid.

He is being joined by Peter Hall, director of the Institute of Urban and Regional Development at the University of California, Berkley, who will work part time initially and full time in June and July. Professor Hall is to advise on strategic land use planning and is a former member of the southeast regional planning council and the social science research council.

Mr Heseltine has already appointed Tom Burke, an environmental campaigner, as a full-timer adviser on the implementation of proposals contained in the White Paper *This Common Inheritance* and reappointed David Pearce, who advised Nicholas Ridley and Chris Patten. Professor Pearce is advise Mr Heseltine on economic issue affecting the environment.

Eileen Strathnaver, who helped to run Mr Heseltine's office in Victoria during his years in the wilderness, has gone to the environment department as a political adviser. She is being assisted by Alan Kemp, who is working part time for Mr Heseltine. Richard Marsh is also an adviser in the department, working for the ministers of state, Michael Portillo and David Trippier.

Statistics office 'should be free'

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HAROLD Macmillan worried that government statistics were often out of date. Denis Healey found it possible to get fairly accurate details of the size of the Soviet armed forces but impossible to get accurate figures of the United Kingdom's national output of the previous year. Nigel Lawson complained that the state of the national income statistics left much to be desired.

In recent years their concern about the quality of official statistics has been echoed by the Treasury, Bank of England and in the City. The doubts about their quality spurred Margaret Thatcher and John Major to bring in measures aimed at improving the quality of economic statistics while the Royal Statistical Society set up a working party to look into official statistics.

A series of changes have been introduced, although their full impact has yet to be felt. "I think official economic statistics are still pretty awful and they need to be improved", Terence Higgins, chairman of the Commons Treasury and Civil Service select committee, said. "It goes back to when I was in the Treasury. The statistics were bad then, they were certainly bad under Denis Healey. If we had better statistics at the time of the 1987 stock market crash, the government might have responded very differently."

However, Mr Higgins said that despite the criticisms, the Central Statistical Office, which has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, is responding to the challenge of improving its performance. Some initiatives to produce better measurement in key areas such as services, companies and the balance of payments involves increased statutory enquiries in areas of service trades, company profits, and stockbuilding. A new quarterly enquiry to collect data from businesses with large overseas transacations in royalties and services has been introduced and the four-monthly investigation into inward and outward investments has been extended to a larger sample of firms.

Lord Donoughue: fewer staff "government's fault"

The difficulties in producing high quality statistics should not be underestimated in an era that has seen the "globalisation" of financial markets and banking deregulation. Although providing accurate figures on the national economy is a key element of the statistical office's work, it also produces social and business statistics with its annual Social Trends document providing a treasure trove of information on the habits, good or otherwise, of modern Britain. Some of its work in the area of social statistics has declined as a consequence of the early Thatcherite zeal for reducing the size of bureaucracy when there were job cuts in the statistical office.

Today, Labour will highlight the difficulties facing the statistical service during a debate in the House of Lords when Lord Donoughue, formerly a policy adviser to Harold Wilson and James Callaghan, will claim that there has been a serious deterioration in the quality of official statistics. He will blame that deterioration on the government's reduction in staff and the number of surveys.

He will call for the statistical office to become an autonomous service — it is now an independent department within the Treasury — backed with the right to collect and publish information.

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Heseltine's ideas no cure for poll tax ills, says Labour

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR reaffirmed yesterday that it would abolish the community charge almost immediately on taking office and alleged that all the alternatives put forward by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, would mean another three or four years of misery before the poll tax was fully removed.

The Labour leadership also set out what it says are five good reasons why bills would be lower under Labour than under the poll tax.

In its latest move to capitalise on the government's difficulties over the poll tax review, Labour published what it called a "dossier of disarray and dithering", a document containing quotations from John Major, Mr Heseltine and other senior Tories about the merits or otherwise of the poll tax and property taxes. Labour also republished its own plans to replace the poll tax with a system of fair rates, a property-based tax adjusted to reflect ability to pay with a new system of rebates.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said that Labour's plan, unlike any proposals made during the government review, would let Labour abolish the poll tax immediately on taking office, and then concentrate on bringing the rates up to date.

Labour proposes in the first instance to use the valuation registers that were the basis for assessing rates up to 1989, the year before the poll tax was introduced in England and Wales. Its policy document says: "These registers give us an almost instantly accessible and familiar base upon which to calculate a property tax. They provide the only realistic means of allowing us to implement a proven and viable alternative to the poll tax within a year to 18 months of coming to office."

Properties built after 1989 will have to be valued. Labour will rely on existing registers only for as long as is needed for a *complete* revaluation. *In* choosing its base for calculating revalued rates, the party rejected capital values, the latest approach apparently favoured by Mr Heseltine.

Labour's policy document says that rateable values provide a comparative measure to enable valuers to assess how much one household in an area should pay compared with another. It proposes, therefore, to let valuers use a range of factors, including market price, rebuilding cost, maintenance costs and private rents. It aims to complete revaluation within two years of establishing a property tax.

Mr Gould said that the poll tax saga seemed endless. Not a day passed without a report of the latest wheeze, a denunciation of poll tax betrayal by a Thatcherite loyalist, or a plea by a terrified Tory backbencher for an end to the review. Presiding over the sorry scene was a prime minister who was making indecision an art form. Labour's dossier, Mr Gould said, proved how strongly Tories had once condemned a property tax.

He said Labour's plan would mean lower bills because a property tax was cheaper to administer, hard to avoid and widely accepted. It would have higher collection levels and be broadly progressive so that most people, especially low-earners, would pay a lower share.

Millions facing court summonses

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than seven million adults in England have been summonsed for non payment of the community charge, according to figures released yesterday by the Audit Commission. The figure represents a fifth of all chargepayers, three times the number defaulting under the old rating system.

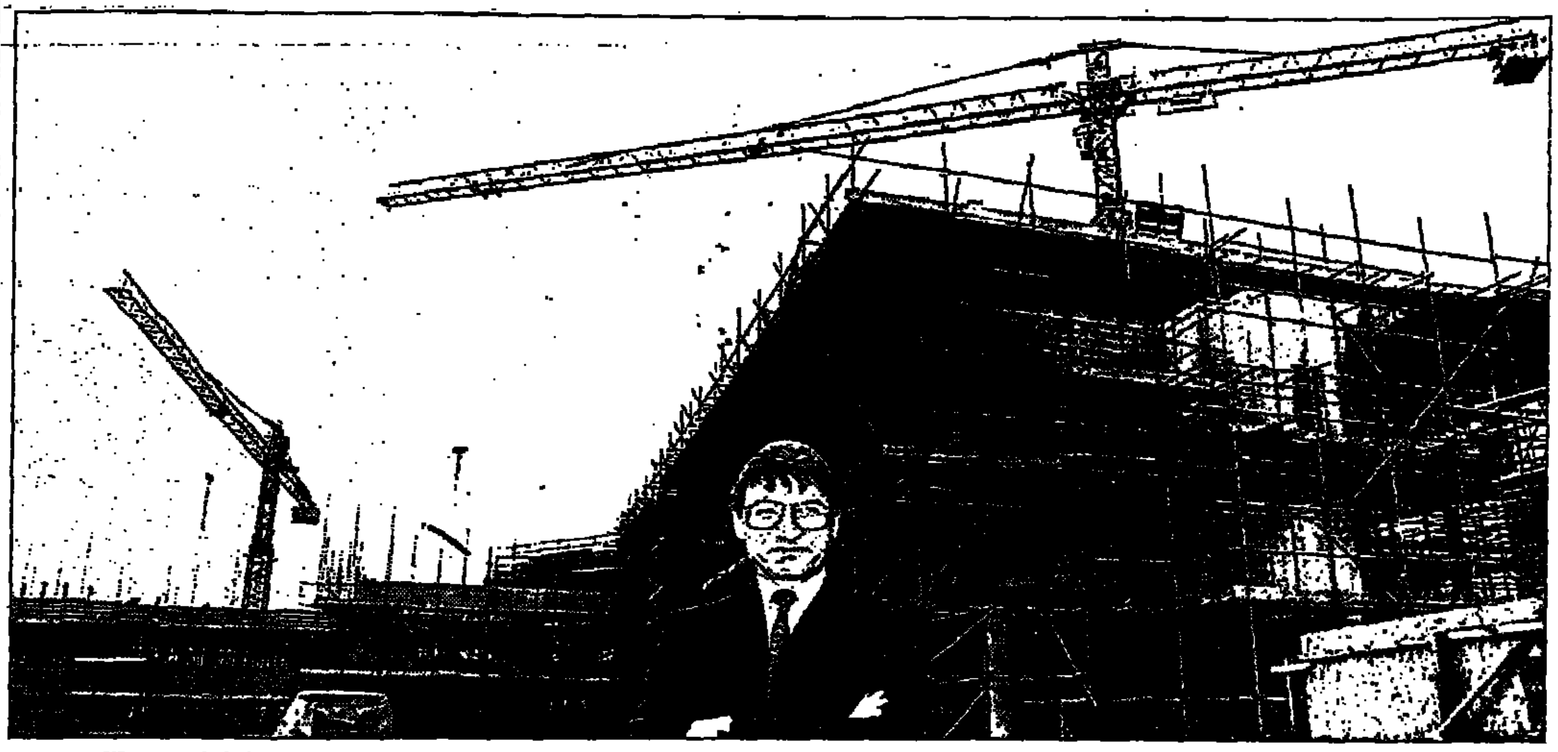
The commission said that in the first year of the poll tax the courts had issued as many recovery summonses as were issued in the last five years of the rates put together. Only 27 per cent of councils expected to get through their backlog of enforcement cases by the end of the financial year on March 31 and the commission said the courts could not cope with flood of litigation.

A third of councils still had not dealt with applications from residents for poll tax rebates for the current year. That was partly due to a high rate of turnover on community charge registers.

The amount of poll tax collected by councils at the end of January ranged from 39 per cent to 93 per cent of the total due. The average collection rate was 82 per cent in shire districts, 73 per cent in metropolitan areas, 77 per cent in outer London and 66 per cent in inner London.

☐ Water rates in England and Wales will average £156 per household from April as the privatised water companies exercise their right to increase bills by the rate of inflation plus an allowance for future investment.

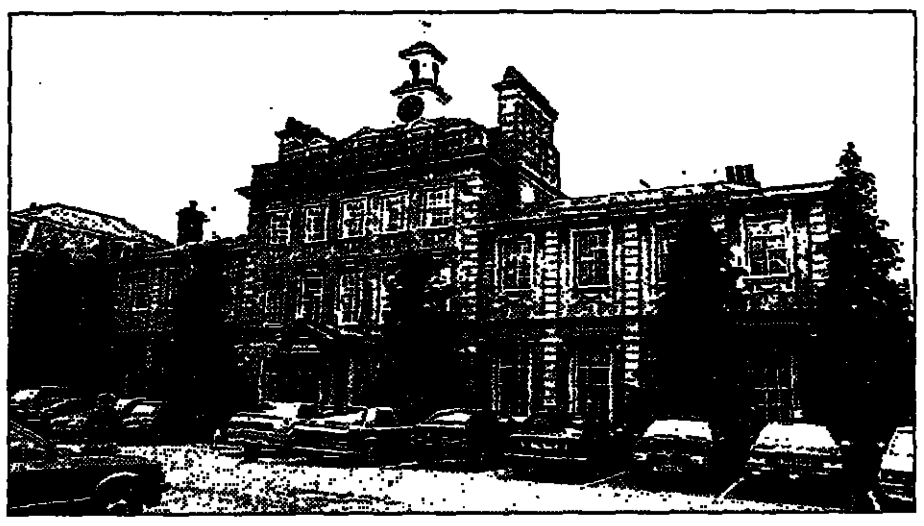
Figures published by the Office of Water Services, the water industry watchdog, show that the biggest rises will be levied by the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company in Kent which will raise charges by 32.2 per cent. Other large rises will be in West Kent and Eastbourne (29.7 per cent), Bournemouth (28.3 per cent) and Mid Sussex (26.7 per cent). None of the companies is keeping price rises below inflation.



The new: Mr Jones yesterday in front of the £15 million civic centre, described as Surrey's version of the Pompidou Centre in Paris

Tories' monument to overspending

William Cash visits Elmbridge to assess a council that has set the Conservatives' highest poll tax



The old: council offices in Esher. Internal feuding is blamed for the financial mess

THE government never holds up Surrey's leafy Tory-controlled borough of Elmbridge as a model of excess and bad housekeeping, but it has the unenviable record of setting the highest community charge of any Tory council at £478.

Roger Jones, the borough treasurer, admits that the council's finances are at a crisis point. It is already 83 per cent over the limit set by the environment department for its spending this year. It needs to sell £7 million of assets by September to meet its budget.

Elmbridge, with few social problems and a prosperous electorate, is paying the price for nearly a decade of reckless spending, at the heart of which is the council's decision to abandon its existing two council offices, in Esher and Walton-on-Thames, and build itself a grandiose £15 million civic centre. The scheme, described as Surrey's version of the Pompidou Centre in Paris, is a particular target for local anger against municipal extravagance. Other projects are equally resented by the voters. "They've just gone mad and spent a million pounds on crazy pink street paving," Liz Dudley said, as she picked up her children from Ashley school in Walton-on-Thames, which is threatened with closure. "Like everything else this council does it is wasted."

The half completed civic centre near Sandown race course, which will cost charge payers an estimated £42 each this year, is now described as "a regrettable decision" by Paul Hainsworth, the Tory leader of the council. It serves a population of 107,000. "It made a nonsense of the attempts made to get the budget into line," he said.

"No expense spared" was how Alan Ingledew, aged 52, a Wimpey project manager, described the architectural plans of the new 89,000 sq ft concrete and brick-clad council offices, boasting such features as a Welsh slate roof, external scenic lifts, a civic bowling green with pavilion, a £50,000 landscaped garden with lake and underground parking for 180 cars.

Mr Hainsworth blamed the resulting financial mess on internal council feuding during the 1980s. According to Ernest Mallett, leader of the opposition Local Residents Group on the council, a further £24 of this year's poll tax is going on paying for a £3 million accounting error. "There was nothing sinister about the error — it was just a mistake, quite a large one unfortunately," Mr Jones said.

The council has threatened to cut grants to local charities and voluntary services, put up council rents and is selling off an industrial estate and other property to meet this year's budget.

Property prices in the borough are high. In St George's Hill estate, famed as the home of show business people in the 1960s — the singer Cliff Richard still lives there — house prices run into the millions. In the past the high rates they paid earned the council a reputation for a high standard of local services. Mrs Dudley, who lives in a four bedroom house near Walton-on-Thames, used to pay £600 in rates. She and her husband now pay nearly £1,000 in poll tax. She resents that the rich residents of St George's Hill pay no more than her. "I've always voted Conservative but the poll tax has really got under my skin. At the next election I will think again."

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BR under pressure to speed up £1bn upgrade in Kent

By Michael Dynes, transport correspondent

PRESSURE to complete the £1 billion modernisation programme for Kent rail services on schedule will be stepped up today when Roger Freeman, the transport minister, meets local MPs for talks on the future of British Rail's Networker project.

The two-phase modernisation programme, the most expensive investment scheme proposed by British Rail after the Channel tunnel rail link, will transform what is arguably Britain's worst regional railway into a network for the 21st century, British Rail says.

Government approval has already been given for half the project, allowing British Rail to spend £500 million on the new Networker 465 trains for the congested inner commuter services between London, Sevenoaks and Gillingham.

The first Networker 465 comes into service in May next year and will be followed by the delivery of one four-coach unit a week until 1995. Introduction of the trains will be accompanied by signalling and track improvements. Plans to proceed with the introduction of the Networker 471 trains on the Kent Coast outer commuter routes had to be dropped from British Rail's present five-year investment programme because of the precipitate decline in receipts from fares, property sales and lettings.

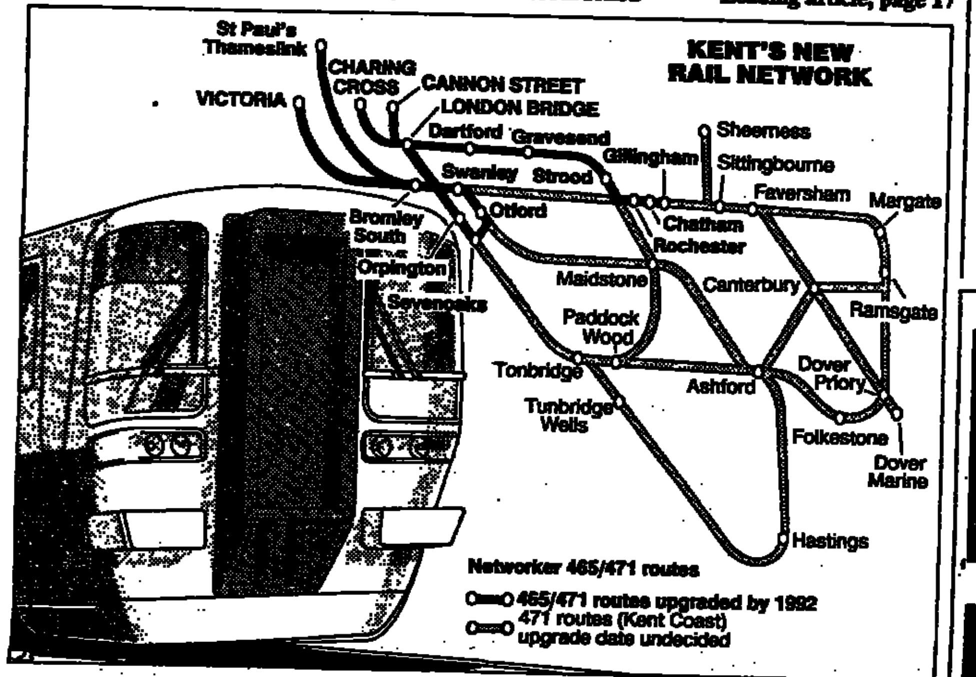
The Networker 471s, which offered Kent's 140,000 commuters the prospect of travelling to work in fast air-conditioned trains, were to have started arriving in 1993 at the same rate of delivery as the Networker 465s until 1996. Because of the financial pressure on British Rail to postpone the project, however, the long-awaited improvements to commuter services are unlikely to materialise until well into the next century.

Commuter services in Kent are already the most congested routes in the Network South-East region, with 42 per cent of trains entering the capital in peak periods breaching British Rail's limits on overcrowding. When the Channel tunnel services begin between London, Paris and Brussels in 1993, Kent's overburdened rail routes will be required to make room for even more trains, leading to a further deterioration in services.

Sir Bob Reid, the chairman of British Rail, has been urging Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to relax the discipline imposed by the government on British Rail's finances so that he can borrow from the national loans fund to finance the Kent Coast scheme. Mr Rifkind has yet to indicate whether he is prepared to raise this option with his cabinet colleagues.

Kent county council, which backs the Networker project, has launched a campaign to speed up the investment programme, and prevent Kent from becoming a bottleneck between the Channel tunnel and London. "The UK needs to have an image of fast and efficient gateway services on the Kent rail network. The buffer zone must not be allowed to shift from the waters of the Channel to an inadequate rail network through Kent," the council said.

Leading article, page 17



TED BATH

Dredging up the past: an unsuccessful attempt to hoist an old Morris Minor from the river Bow Back as part a clearance scheme organised by Newham council, east London. The scheme began in July last year under the East London Rivers Initiative. Teams of Scouts and schoolchildren have been joining waterway groups and other volunteers to help to clear the area's rivers of debris that has accumulated during years of development and industrial decay. The dredger The River of Hope has helped since January.

Conciliation 'cuts divorce acrimony'

By Frances Gibb, legal affairs correspondent

A NATIONAL family conciliation service to help divorcing parents was called for by the National Children's Home yesterday on the basis of research that overwhelmingly backs conciliation as a way to help couples to sort out their disputes amicably.

The NCH, one of the main providers of conciliation schemes in Britain, says that its research has found conciliation helps children to keep contact with both parents. In some cases, conciliation also enabled a parent without custody to retain access to a child.

The NCH runs seven conciliation projects which together account for more than a third of all the funds spent on independent conciliation services in Britain. Its research is based on a survey conducted in four of its projects.

Apart from the value placed on conciliation as a means of resolving disputes, the survey found that agreements reached through conciliation were lasting. Of the 11 couples who used conciliation two or more years ago, the agreement had broken down in only two cases.

There was also strong support for the Law Commission's proposal to bring in a one-year "divorce over time" process in place of the present fault-based system. The Law Commission envisages a much bigger part for conciliation services, helping couples to focus on children's needs and sort out custody and access before obtaining the divorce. Some 152,000 marriages end in divorce each year, involving about 150,000 children.

● Separating couples will be able to settle both maintenance issues and questions of custody and access under a new project in Frome, Somerset, to be set up next month by the NCH and the Family Mediators' Association.

Schools run trips despite charges

By John O'Leary, higher education correspondent

MOST schools have maintained the number of visits and extra-curricular activities offered since charges were introduced in 1989, a survey published yesterday showed.

Only a third of schools responded to the survey carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research, which said the low response made firm conclusions inappropriate.

However Michael Fallon, the schools minister, said: "Evidence from this survey and other sources indicates that, overall, schools are coping with the legislation. The number of visits has remained broadly constant since before the 1988 act, though more visits are now directly related to the curriculum. In view of this, I see no case for changing the legislation."

Schools have been allowed to charge for "optional extras" out of school hours since 1989, although not for activities deemed to be an essential part of the school curriculum. Voluntary contributions may be sought for trips for which no charge is allowed, but pupils cannot be excluded if their parents cannot or will not pay. Labour claimed last year that the rules had led to a fall in school trips. A survey found that visits to zoos and theatres, in particular, had declined.

The foundation found, however, that almost half the primary schools and three-quarters of the secondary schools that responded levied some charges before the new regulations were introduced. Where there had been a change, there tended to be fewer activities and a slight increase in the number of cancelled visits.

Overall, however, there was little change in the number of day visits or in the provision of music or swimming lessons. The most noticeable effect was the introduction of more curriculum-related visits by primary schools and fewer of a more general nature.

Head teachers interviewed about the results of the survey agreed that the regulations had caused extra administrative work. Some also found that, for the first time, parents who could afford to pay for visits were declining to do so. The National Union of Teachers said the regulations were being ignored by many schools because they were so complex.

BBC faces contempt action

The Attorney-general has started contempt of court proceedings against the BBC over a regional news programme's alleged inaccurate reporting of a drugs trial.

Sir Patrick Mayhew was granted leave by the High Court yesterday to seek to have the BBC fined for "several contempts" in a report on *Midlands Today* last year. The report, of the first day of a trial of four men at Shrewsbury crown court, is said to have caused a substantial risk that justice would be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

Philip Havers, for the Attorney-general, told the High Court that it had looked likely at one stage that a new trial would have to be arranged because of the broadcast.

Media, page 15

Speelman's run

The British grandmaster Jon Speelman has had a remarkable run of success in the international chess tournament at Linares, Spain, to come within a point of the world champion, Gary Kasparov, who leads on 7½ points. Two rounds remain in the tournament, which ends tomorrow.

Suicide verdict

Robin Senior, a junior doctor said to be exhausted after being on duty for 80 hours, died after taking an insulin overdose and jumping off a building at Epsom district hospital, an inquest at Epsom was told yesterday. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

Poll tax hoax

Tony Wood sent hoax summonses for non-payment of the poll tax to 30 members of Haringey council, Haringey magistrates heard yesterday. Wood, aged 32, of Tottenham, London, was bound over for a year in the sum of £50.

Boy, 16, killed

A boy aged 16 died yesterday when his head struck a parked car as he leaned out of a moving car at Blackpool. Police said that Peter Whittleworth, who was from Oldham but lived with foster parents, had been drinking.

Oil slick

Beaches from Eastbourne to Brighton are being sprayed with dispersant chemicals after being contaminated by an oil slick. The source of the slick is not known.

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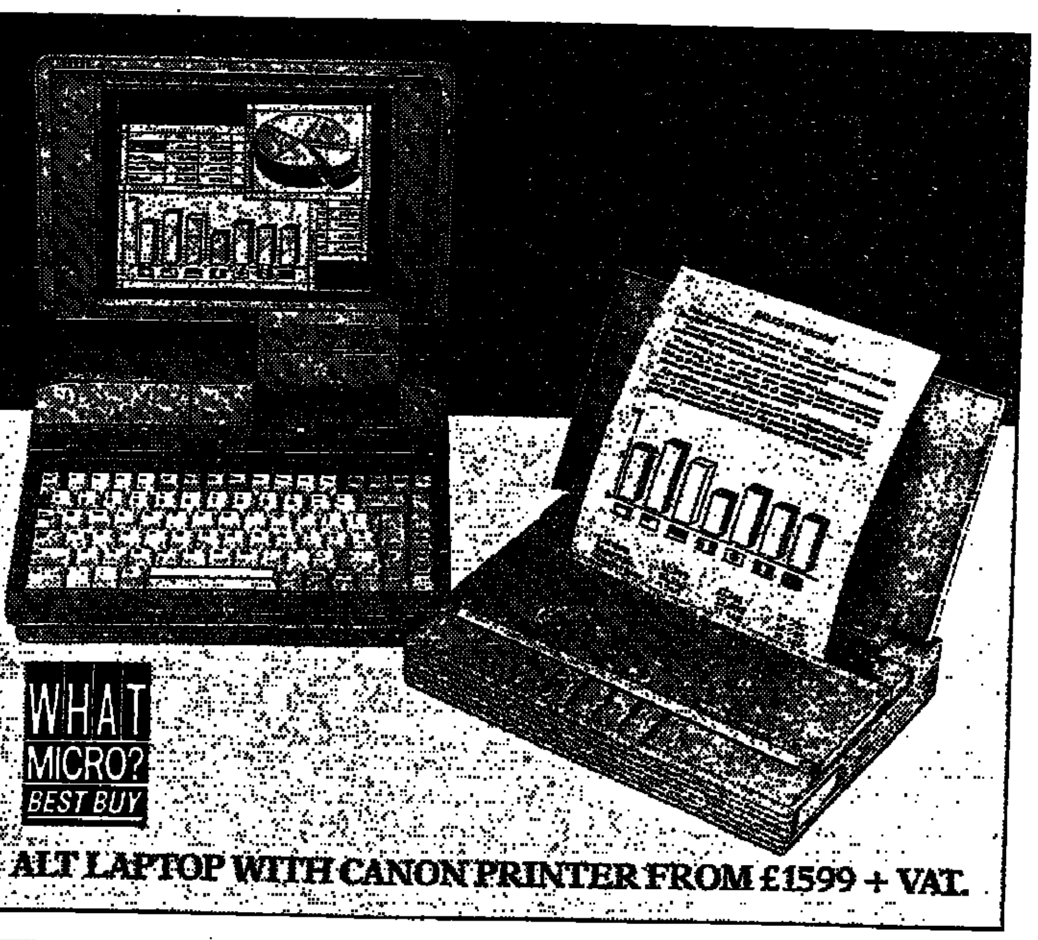

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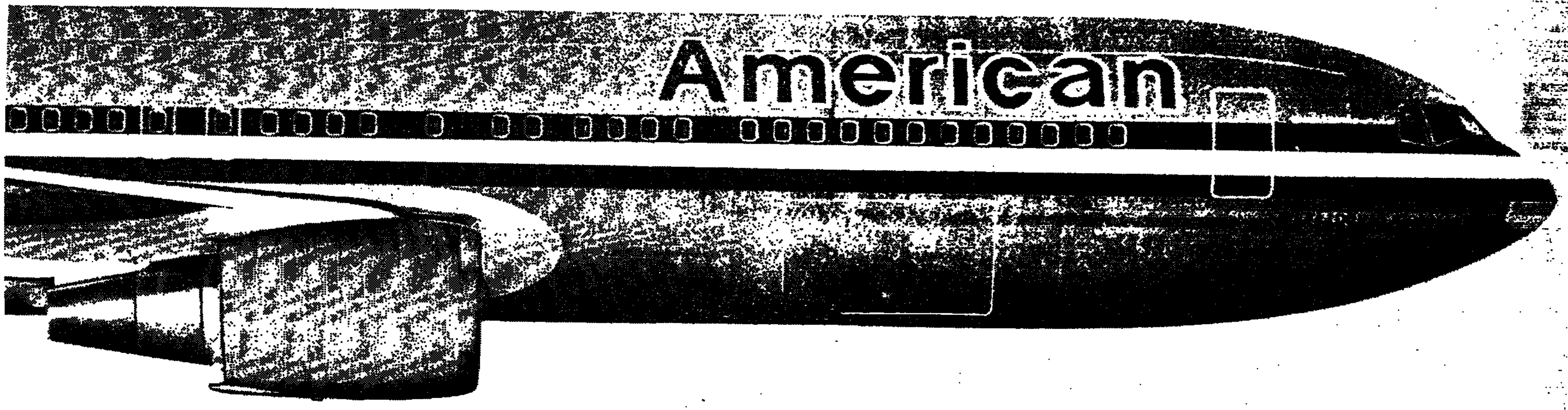

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Pretoria unveils plan for land and housing reforms

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African government has announced sweeping plans to abolish racial discrimination in land and property rights, and to help the black majority to own homes and farms.

The reforms, envisaged in a white paper tabled yesterday, will repeal the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, which reserve more than 86 per cent of the land for whites, and the Group Areas Act of 1966, which segregates residential areas. Five separate bills are proposed in the most comprehensive reform package to be devised since President de Klerk began dismantling apartheid a year ago.

However, the government ruled out any restitution of land to blacks forcibly moved under the tribal homelands policy, and said the racial "own affairs" concept would be maintained in local government pending its review in constitutional negotiations.

Mr de Klerk said the 24-page document represented an historic turning point. "The objective is to do justice to all the citizens of our country . . . to broaden opportunities for all, while preserving lawfully acquired rights," he said. The essence of the reforms is to open land and property ownership to all races in a free-market system, while preserving existing rights, in the hope that a more equitable society will evolve.

The package fell short of demands by the African National Congress and others for the return of ancestral land to an estimated 3.5 million blacks forced to move to nominally independent and self-governing states. The ANC has called for reparations to be awarded by a special court which would take into account birthright, historical claims, ancestral graves and present occupation rights. Aninka Claassens, a member of the ANC's land commission, said yesterday that there were disappointing omissions in the government's proposals. Peter Soal, of the liberal Democratic party, said the refusal to return appropriated land was a serious shortcoming.

The white paper said the restoration of land to individuals and communities forced to give it up "on account of past policies or other historical reasons" would not be feasible. Apart from the potential for conflict, overlapping and contradictory claims would make such a programme extremely difficult, if not impossible, it said.

This is unlikely to placate the far-right Conservative party, or the estimated 60,000 full-time white farmers who control agriculture. In a recent referendum, almost 95 per cent of farmers voted to retain the status quo.

The government has also tried to allay concern in black territories that tribal land would be acquired by white speculators. A bill prohibits any tribe from selling its land, without a court order, to anyone other than a member of the tribe.

The reforms will apply in the autonomous tribal homelands, and no more land will be allocated to them. Instead, about half a million acres held in reserve for such areas, or in trust for tribal communities, will be allocated to black farmers. In urban areas, an estimated 300,000 registered leasehold rights and deeds of grant to property will be converted to full ownership as soon as possible.

Provisions are made to alleviate a serious housing shortage by facilitating and regulating the establishment of "less formal townships" as an interim measure. However, the government said it could not tolerate squatting that took the form of trespass, or disorderly settlement on unsuitable land.

A contentious proposal is to empower the president to amend by proclamation other acts of parliament affected by the reforms. It is envisaged that 189 laws and thousands of regulations will have to be changed or repealed, but the government plans to have the reforms on the statute book by the end of the parliamentary session in June.

● **Toll rises:** Seventeen more people have died from injuries sustained in the weekend fighting between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party in Alexandra township, outside Johannesburg, bringing the death toll to at least 54. In Soweto, at least 11 people have been killed. Yesterday police said Alexandra, Soweto and four other areas were quiet after security forces enforced a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Indian MPs are forced to wait for poll date

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

Loyal support: an elderly man blessing Rajiv Gandhi after parliament adjourned indefinitely in Delhi yesterday

THE Indian parliament yesterday completed all outstanding business in record time, its MPs lined up for a group photograph, and everyone waited for President Venkataraman to announce whether he was going to order the tenth general election since independence.

After hours of waiting, the Lok Sabha (lower house) decided to adjourn without setting a date for a new sitting. It seemed last night that the president would be faced with little alternative but to call a poll, despite last-minute attempts by Rajiv Gandhi and others to piece together a new coalition government. Every party has put its workers on an election footing, with most expecting a May poll.

The delay in announcing a dissolution of parliament reflected the president's uncertainty about the wisdom of calling an election at a time of widespread caste and religious tension, which could explode into violence. There was mounting irritation among MPs last night about the prolonged uncertainty, although most were hoping that there would be no election, publicly saying the opposite.

Although above party politics, the president has faced criticism from MPs for his handling of the recent political turmoil. Many feel he was too hasty in accepting the resignation of Chandra Shekhar, the outgoing prime minister, last Wednesday.

Mr Gandhi has been urging the president to delay a poll until the autumn, when the country might be in better shape. He also feels his Congress (I) party might be better equipped then to face an electorate that rejected him 16 months ago.

Most observers doubt whether anybody could secure an outright majority, which has been another reason for the president's indecision. He has been worried about the cost of an election at a time of severe economic cutbacks. Without a new International Monetary Fund loan, India will be unable to meet its international debts.

One of parliament's last decisions was to approve bigger pensions for MPs, including those who had served only a year.

Crash-landing for Tonga space hope

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AN AMBITIOUS plan by the King of Tonga to transform his banana-exporting realm into a space nation appears to be heading for an ignominious end.

Tongasat, a company set up by the Pacific island's amiable King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and a millionaire American businessman, had high hopes of acquiring rights to large tracts of space above Tonga, where satellites are in orbit. This would have allowed the tiny island effectively to corner the market in the dwindling number of prime satellite orbits.

Tongasat's plans have, however, fallen foul of international telecommunications agencies which have become suspicious of Tonga's intentions. Sources at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the intergovernmental body that grants satellite slots, said yesterday that instead of securing, free of charge, 16 vacant slots for about 31 satellite networks, Tonga is likely to be allowed a handful at best and quite possibly none.

King Taufa'ahau: dream of satellite monopoly

Tongasat had failed to clarify why it needed so many orbits and networks for a population of just 100,000 and had not provided realistic details of the services Tonga would offer the region. Officials at the ITU's Geneva headquarters said Tonga could expect a letter within two weeks with their decision.

The colourful saga of Tonga's space ambitions began last year when it emerged that Matt Nilson, an American technology entrepreneur, had founded Tongasat as a regional satellite organisation. Within months, Tongasat laid claim to 16 of the best remaining orbital slots in the Pacific region by notifying the International Frequency Registration Board, an arm of the ITU, that it would like them.

Tonga claims its intentions are sincere. Others, particularly the large telecommunications federations, are less than convinced. A spokesman for Intelsat, a 119-nation body based in Washington which organises much of the world's satellite services and has protested against Tonga's application, said yesterday it had been immediately suspicious of the attempt to register "an inordinately large number of satellites" for a small country. "We took the view that once they had acquired the rights they would auction them off to the highest bidder."

Experts believe leasing the slots to telephone, television and communications organisations could bring in £1 million each.

UK group to rescue stranded Somalis

By MICHAEL KNIPE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH initiative to rescue tens of thousands of refugees in the southwestern Somali port of Kismayo is being mounted by the British Horn of Africa Council and the 60,000-strong Somali community in Britain. They are hoping to charter a ship to evacuate the northerners — whose territory was once British Somaliland.

More than half a million people have fled to Kismayo to escape the fighting 300 miles away in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, after the overthrow of President Mohamed Siad Barre six weeks ago.

"The situation in Kismayo is desperate," said Helena Ismail, a Somali-born co-ordinator of the Horn of Africa Community Association in London.

Louis Fitzgibbon, secretary of the British Horn of Africa Council, said the plan was to ship the refugees from Kismayo to their homelands or ports in the Gulf of Aden.

Somalia has been divided between rival rebel factions since the fall of Mr Siad Barre. The divisions have prevented the northerners, trapped in the south, from returning overland to their homes.

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Arafat's leadership endangered by support for Saddam

Husain: seen by many as a way out of deadlock

Signs are appearing that Yassir Arafat's days as PLO chairman may be numbered. Michael Binyon and Michael Theodoulou consider who might take over the reins

AS THE Palestine Liberation Organisation takes a long and painful look at its alienation from much of the Arab world and its loss of influence in the wake of the Gulf war, there are moves to call an extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council, a possible prelude to removing Yassir Arafat from his position as PLO chairman.

PLO representatives in London dismiss talk of such a change, but an increasing number of Palestinians believe only a change of leadership will allow the PLO to retain any influence in shaping peace negotiations, especially since America has virtually ruled out any further dealings with the organisation under its current leadership.

Mr Arafat is not thought likely to step down voluntarily, nor has a mechanism for succession been properly worked out. He has led the PLO for so long and is so associated with its claim to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people that he would have to be kept on in a figurehead capacity if a power struggle between moderates and radicals is to be avoided.

It was Mr Arafat's backing for President Saddam Hussein that cost him the support of the Gulf states. Any successor would therefore have to mend fences with these rich countries that traditionally have provided funds for the PLO. Two prominent Palestinians might command support in the Gulf: Khalid al-Hassan, the chairman of the national council's foreign affairs committee, and Jawid al-Ghussein, a member of the PLO executive committee and effectively treasurer. Both now have citizenship of Gulf countries and gave no support to Saddam during the war. Mr al-Hassan, however, is in his 70s and in poor health.

An alternative would be to look to members of the national council who live outside the Middle East. Among them are several prominent moderates who played a key role in persuading Mr Arafat to utter the formula accepting Israel's right to exist which enabled the Reagan administration to open a dialogue with the PLO. They include Professor Edward Said and Professor Walid Khalidi, distinguished academics living in America.

Although they would clearly restore PLO influence in the West and among moderate Arab countries, they are probably too Western and too removed from the scene to be acceptable to Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Senior PLO officials close to Mr Arafat, such as Farouk al-Kaddoumi, the PLO "foreign minister", or Bassam Abu Sharif, a spokesman for Mr Arafat, are too associated with the current leadership. Mr Kaddoumi especially is said to be more extreme than Mr Arafat, and would be unable to regain the financial support of the Saudis or reopen a dialogue with the US. Even Nabil Shaath, the erudite and articulate diplomatic adviser to Mr Arafat, who was recently in Britain to try to maintain a dialogue with British authorities, is not likely to command wide support.

Intellectuals on the West Bank also are limited by the restrictions imposed on them by the Israelis. One of the brightest, Sari Nusseibeh, son of a former Jordanian defence minister, was arrested by the Israelis at the outbreak of the Gulf war.

Ironically, many Palestinians are looking to King Husain of Jordan to help lead them out of their cul-de-sac. The king's stance during the Gulf war brought him close to his country's Palestinian population, but his balancing act did not altogether cut his links with the West. To bring him back as leader of a dual-mandate, speaking for Jordan and the Palestinians, however, would be turning back the clock to the time when the king, in the face of bitter PLO opposition, claimed to speak for all citizens of what, before 1967, was Jordan.

There is no obvious successor to Mr Arafat, a man whose streetwise instincts and political agility have enabled him to survive so many attempts to remove him. But there is evidence that the PLO collective leadership is taking steps to clip his wings: the "permission" granted by the PLO to Palestinians to meet James Baker, the US Secretary of State, may be evidence of this.

PALESTINIANS

Baker talks revive hopes for renewed dialogue with PLO

From PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

THE United States came face to face with the Palestinian problem yesterday when James Baker, the Secretary of State, met local Palestinian leaders. The first meeting between the two sides since last year's raid on a Tel Aviv beach overshadowed earlier talks between Mr Baker and Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, and Moshe Arens, the defence minister.

As if to reflect a mood of cautious Palestinian optimism, there were no reports of serious disturbances, despite a commercial strike which closed shops throughout the occupied territories. The Palestinian delegation consisted of several supporters of Yassir Arafat's mainstream Fatah organisation, including the leading east Jerusalem nationalist, Faisal Husseini. Traditional moderates were represented by Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, and Maher el-Masri, a Nablus businessman and the brother of Jordan's foriegn minister. But the meeting with Mr Baker was the subject of intense internal debate among Palestinians, and was not universally endorsed.

Supporters of the Communist party and George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine boycotted the meeting, and Islamic fundamentalist groups condemned it. A report on Army Radio spoke of graffiti on the walls of the West Bank town of Ramallah, attacking Mr Husseini.

By agreeing to the meeting, Mr Baker came as close to talking to the Palestine Liberation Organisation as is possible, short of actually flying to the PLO's headquarters in Tunis. Saeb Erekat, a university lecturer and member of the delegation, indicated that the encounter would not have taken place without a green light from Tunis.

"The group of Palestinians who came today came under the direct order of the PLO," he said. Others said the meeting was a triumph of local Palestinians over the more cautious leadership abroad.

Washington has said it has no intention of resuming the dialogue with the PLO it broke off last summer, after Mr Arafat failed to condemn an abortive attack on Israeli beaches by a radical PLO faction. However, the Palestinians said they felt encouraged by suggestions that the dialogue was not dead and buried. "We are happy that we heard from Mr Baker that the talks between the PLO and the United States are suspended, and not terminated," said Mr Husseini.

In an 11-point statement handed to Mr Baker, the Palestinians described the PLO as "our sole legitimate leadership" and called for the establishment of a Palestinian state "next to the state of Israel". It also called for an international conference as the best "mechanism for advancing the peace process".

But when asked about the importance of such a conference, Hanan Ashrawi, a Bir Zeit university lecturer, said it was "a means, not an end". There was little sign, by the end of the day, that Mr Baker had discovered the common ground necessary to revive the moribund peace process.

Israeli officials were less forthcoming than the Palestinians about their talks with Mr Baker, but it seemed clear that the Secretary of State had heard two thoroughly incompatible sets of proposals. Mr Shamir's chief spokesman, Avi Pazner, said Israel and the United States had agreed on a "two-pronged approach — that relations between Israel and the Arab countries, on the one hand, and the Palestinian problem, on the other, should be discussed in parallel". Mr Pazner said the talks had been "good and friendly", and had covered the situation in the Gulf, Israel's relations with the Arab world, the Palestinian problem and the question of economic co-operation.

Asked if the key to peace with the Arab world depended on the implementation of UN resolution 242, which calls on Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967, Mr Pazner said the issue had not been discussed in such terms. "But I believe the prime minister definitely agrees that there is now an opportunity to do something." He added: "I will not be any more specific. However, certainly after this meeting the attitude is positive."

The Israeli government has repeatedly said it opposes the notion of "territory for peace", referred to by President Bush in his address to Congress last week. To do so, it says, would be to compromise Israel's security.

Letters, page 17

Arab accord: Colonel Muammar Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, left, and Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, at the closing ceremony of the Arab Maghreb Union summit in Libya on Monday. The member states condemned attempts to undermine the PLO

SYRIA

Damascus hails American policy

From REUTER IN DAMASCUS

SYRIA praised the United States yesterday for the first time in years, for a "positive" stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The official daily *Tishreen*, in a front-page editorial, hailed what it called progress in Washington's Middle East policy after the Gulf war, which allied both countries against Iraq.

"The joining of the United States to the group of those calling for an international conference constitutes in itself an important progress, especially as Israel strongly objects to a conference and was capable in the past of drawing obstacles to organising it by exerting pressure on Washington," it said.

It was the first such praise by Syria of Washington's policy in years and came a day before James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was scheduled to visit Damascus for talks with President Assad on postwar Gulf security.

Mr Baker, on a ten-day mission to the Middle East, Turkey and the Soviet Union, is carrying a broad proposal to establish a new regional defence arrangement, foster economic co-operation, halt arms proliferation and resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria's anti-Iraq stand in the war has helped Damascus to regain a leading role in the Arab world, after years of isolation through being listed by the United States as a supporter of international terrorism.

Tishreen said the meeting between Mr Baker and eight Arab foreign ministers in Riyadh at the weekend formed a "fruitful and healthy start" for joint Arab action. It said a statement issued after the meeting saw the convening of an international peace conference under UN auspices as "a suitable framework for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territory and guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people". *Tishreen* said Mr Baker's position in joining Arab demands for the implementation of UN resolution 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon "constitutes an important step". Israel has set up a nine-mile deep security zone in the area since 1985 on the ground of protecting its northern borders from guerrilla attacks.

The eight Arab states represented in Riyadh, all members of the anti-Iraq coalition, were Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar. Only Egypt has made peace with Israel. The eight allies also signed an agreement last week forming a peacekeeping force in the Gulf.

JORDAN

Israel may relent says Husain aide

From ADAM KELLIHER IN AMMAN

A SENIOR political adviser to King Husain of Jordan expressed optimism that Israel would eventually relent on its refusal to swap land for peace, because of new circumstances created by the Gulf war.

The official, who requested anonymity, said Iraqi missile attacks on Israel had proved that geographical size was no insurance against bombardment, and had deflated the pride of Israel, which had been forced not to retaliate and had been defended by Americans manning Patriot batteries.

The adviser maintained that the war had been waged both to recapture Kuwait and to reduce the Iraqi military to a size that restored a balance of power acceptable to the West. However, justifying the conflict through United Nations resolutions had created a "dedication to international legitimacy" under which it was clearly unfair not to impose other UN demands over Palestine.

"These factors have put it to the Israeli people and the Israeli leadership that there can be a peaceful settlement," he said. "With the decimation of Iraqi military power, there is no reason for Israel to talk about military threat."

He said it might take about two years to engineer a peaceful settlement, possibly through bilateral agreements between Israel and neighbouring Arab states. He predicted that it would take at least ten years for any new military threat to Israel to arise, by which time a long period of peace would make war seem unpalatable, as the Israeli-Egyptian pact had shown.

The official said Israel's position was similar to that of Syria: a national ideology that for decades had been the *raison d'être* of the country was now less attractive than a policy of national pragmatism. Domestically, the best way for Israel to countermand the "no land for peace" policy would be to hold a referendum in which, he predicted, the Israeli public would opt to make concessions, giving the government the chance to reverse its stand.

IRAQ

Rebels face threat to kill hostages

From REUTER IN NICOSIA

IRAQ was accused yesterday of threatening to kill 5,000 women and children taken as hostages in the uprising against President Saddam Hussein and of using napalm against rebel fighters.

Jalal Talabani, one of Saddam's leading Kurdish opponents, said in Beirut that the hostages were seized on Sunday as rebels besieged the northeastern oil production centre of Kirkuk. "They threatened if there was any uprising or any attack they will massacre them," he said.

Tehran radio said Iraqi loyalist forces had used napalm against rebels fighting to overthrow Saddam. A number of Iraqis burned by napalm — jellied petrol which causes horrific wounds — had crossed into Iran from southern Iraq in the past two days. There was no independent confirmation of either the hostage report or the use of napalm and rebel claims of controlling a string of provincial towns.

In Baghdad, Iraq reported that cases of cholera and typhoid were spreading and said urgent medical supplies were needed to prevent epidemics. Water and sewage systems were badly damaged by seven weeks of allied bombing, and many Iraqis are taking their drinking water from heavily polluted rivers.

Ibrahim Ahmed al-Nouri, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent, wrote to the Madrid-based Foundation for Peace Against Hunger and Discrimination: "A few days ago cholera and typhoid started spreading in Iraq and cases are continuing to appear."

Officials in Baghdad have largely ignored reports from opposition sources of an escalating anti-Saddam rebellion which flared in Basra 12 days ago after allied forces routed the Iraqi army in Kuwait. Baghdad's media, reporting tours of the provinces by senior members of Saddam's government, made no mention of reports of unrest in the largely Shia south and Kurdish north.

Leading article, page 17

Egyptians forced to carry out sabotage

Cairo — Iraq has forcibly recruited Egyptian workers to carry out sabotage missions in Egypt by holding their families hostage, Mohammed Abdel-Halim Moussa, the interior minister, said yesterday. He said 20 Egyptians who work in Iraq were arrested in Egypt on Monday. Explosives and large amounts of cash were found in their car.

Those who were arrested said others were on their way to Egypt, Mr Moussa added. Egypt has already arrested at least 17 people, mostly Iraqis and Palestinians, who it said were sent by Iraq to assassinate public figures and carry out sabotage. Security at all entry points has been tightened. *(Reuter)*

Envoy defects

Madrid — In the first important defection from Iraq's diplomatic service, Baghdad's envoy to Madrid has requested political asylum in Spain. Spanish officials said the request by the ambassador, Arshad Tawfiq Ismail, was being studied, and confirmed he was being given special police protection.

Pilgrims deal

Bahrain — Iran and Saudi Arabia may reach a compromise soon on the number of Iranian pilgrims in this year's haj to Mecca and Medina, Tehran's ambassador to Bahrain said. Iran has boycotted the haj because of Saudi pilgrim quotas and a ban on demonstrations. *(Reuter)*

Gold recalled

Cairo — Iraq has asked Sudan to return 1,870lb of stolen Kuwaiti gold that Khartoum was paid for supporting the invasion of Kuwait, the Egyptian daily, *al-Ahram*, said. Yemen received £54 million for its support, it said. *(AP)*

Convoys arrive

Geneva — Two convoys from the International Committee of the Red Cross have arrived in Baghdad with emergency food supplies, medicine and two mobile water purification plants. Equipment to repair the Iraqi capital's sewage and water supply was also in the shipment. *(AP)*

KUWAIT

Schwarzkopf scoops up a share in spoils of war

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GENERAL Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the allied forces that drove Iraq from Kuwait, scooped sand from a beach in the emirate yesterday as a souvenir of his victory.

"I promised myself I would fill this with Kuwaiti sand," he told journalists as he poured sand into a small glass bottle. "This one's for my son," he said, filling a second jar. "This is sand from the liberated beaches of Kuwait. That's what this is and we're very proud to be able to do this."

General Schwarzkopf flew in for a quick visit amid security so tight the American embassy was closed to all visitors. Dozens of helicopters flew overhead. He was accompanied by Prince Khaled bin Sultan, the commander of Saudi forces, and met Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, Kuwait's prime minister and crown prince, and Edward Gnehm, the American ambassador to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti dawn: troops guarding General Schwarzkopf under a smoke-filled sky

Winds from the west brought thick black smoke over the capital from burning desert oilfields, turning day into night for much of the general's visit. On the beach, a journalist shouted: "Is it all over?" General Schwarzkopf replied: "As far as I'm concerned, it's over.

"Saddam Hussein had better know it's over. If he makes the mistake of starting it again then he's going to have a lot more trouble than he has on his hands in Iraq right now."

Thousands of American soldiers are in Kuwait, many working to restore basic services such as food supplies, water and electricity. British and American warships reopened one of Kuwait's main ports yesterday, steaming through a channel cleared of mines by a hundred allied frogmen. Behind them were two tankers, one a Soviet vessel, bringing in 20,000 gallons of water to residents cut off from their usual supplies when fleeing Iraqi soldiers blew up power and desalination plants.

"The Iraqi soldiers may have surrendered, but their mines did not surrender," said Rear Admiral Raynor Taylor, commander of the permanent American naval force in the Gulf. He said American, British and Australian divers and sailors had quickly completed a mine removal programme that could have taken months.

Mr Gnehm, the American ambassador, welcoming the US Navy's flagship in the Gulf, LaSalle, and the British minehunter, Cattistock, into Shuaiba, 36 miles south of Kuwait City, said: "This is what we have been aiming for. We want to help the Kuwait government get up on its feet, and now through this port... the government will be able to bring in what the people want."

He said the port was critical in rebuilding the morale of the Kuwaiti people after seven months of Iraqi occupation.

Frogmen said they had removed dozens of mines from the channel, although they could see little below the surface because of oil dumped by the Iraqis. Some divers said they saw bodies, but poor visibility and the urgency of mine-clearing kept them from investigating further.

Captain Abdul-Rahman Naibari, Kuwait's ports chief, said ten berths would soon be operating at Shuaiba. However, air traffic remained minimal.

Delors welcomes 'turning point' in British stance

From Peter Guilford and George Brock in Brussels

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, has welcomed John Major's speech in Bonn as a turning point in Britain's stance on Europe.

"What Mr Major's speech clearly showed is that the British attitude has certainly changed not only in style but in substance, too," he told MEPs yesterday. His conciliatory tone marks an important departure from the threatening language which characterised his frosty relationship with Margaret Thatcher.

The commission president assured his "British friends" that he would do everything possible to take their ideas on board during intergovernmental talks on closer economic and monetary union among the Twelve. But his praise was tempered with a warning against any attempt to slow the pace of European union. "There is a danger that if Europe does not go forward, if we do not stick to our timetable, we will go backwards," he said.

During their summit in Rome last October, all EC leaders except Mrs Thatcher, then prime minister, set January 1994 as the starting date for the vital second phase of European monetary union. Germany has since been edging towards Britain's cautious view. The Bonn government has flatly opposed the creation of a European central bank to administer a single European currency until other European economies are run with as much discipline as that of Germany.

M Delors now fears that a new Anglo-German alliance could become a powerful brake on his plans to move towards a single currency by a fixed series of timetables. "If we do not take the necessary decisions in the next three to four years, we will miss a historic chance," he warned MEPs during a debate on monetary union in the European Parliament.

M Delors is anxious not to upset the new Anglo-German friendship. Echoing an argument heard with increasing urgency in London and Bonn, M Delors called on EC governments to focus their attention on "economic convergence" before concentrating on the later stages leading to a single currency.

EC officials believe the new Anglo-German rapprochement over the European Community has placed M Delors in a quandary: by moving Britain closer to Europe, Mr Major has killed off one of M Delors's worst fears. But by siding with Germany, which increasingly shares Britain's doubts over the way to achieve monetary union, the prime minister is creating another.

Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British member of the European Commission, welcomed the successful Anglo-German summit as confirming that Britain could sign a monetary union treaty while reserving its right to delay joining a single currency system. Sir Leon noted that the prime minister had merely reserved Parliament's right to take the final decision. This confirmed, he said, that "no one need fear an unreasonable British veto" and that Britain had returned to the heart of European policy-making.

As the EC's talks on political and monetary union start to reveal divisions among the three main powers, France finds itself in an exposed position. While the British and German leaders were meeting on Monday, Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, summoned a special EC summit which will probably be held in early April. This unexpected raising of the stakes reflects French anxiety about the new Anglo-German rapport and an increasing sense that French leadership of the community is under threat.

Major stands firm, page 4

Praise for Major in German press

From Ian Murray in Bonn

THE Anglo-German summit was the main story in only one of the principal German newspapers yesterday although there was wide coverage on inside pages for what *Die Welt* called "the demonstrative cordiality" between John Major and Helmut Kohl. The paper said the friendship between the two leaders was evident "in spite of continuing differences on certain basic questions."

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, in a comment headed: "The more relaxed partner from the island", said that relations between the two countries had grown ever better since Mr Major became prime minister. How the relationship developed now would depend on how Bonn could balance its growing importance in Europe with its contacts with America. The Munich paper said that Britain naturally had a special relationship with the United States and a louder voice in a Middle East settlement, while Germany had a lead role in developments concerning Eastern Europe.

The business daily, *Handelsblatt*, said that apart from improving personal relations between the two leaders, Germany and Britain had a number of reasons for wanting to move closer together. It gave a warning against believing that anti-European comments by Mrs Thatcher can be written off as coming from yesterday's woman.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 16

Conversation stopper: Memili Ruestaeogiu proudly displaying his moustache in Berlin yesterday. The moustache is more than three feet long, took two years to grow and requires several hours of grooming a day

Hunt for lost Albanian children

From Andrew McEwen in Brindisi

ITALIAN authorities have appealed for news about 48 Albanian children who went missing during the exodus to Italy last week. There was no trace of them when Brindisi's town council counted the refugees. But their arrival was confirmed by families who lost them in the confusion.

The town's social services department believes they are being looked after by families who rescued them from the streets. But *La Repubblica*, a national newspaper, suggested yesterday that they may have been abducted. Dr Maria Rosaria Rubino, a senior social services official, said: "The big problem is that in the chaos a lot of families took children into their homes without telling us. I am sure they thought they were doing the right thing, but we have no way of knowing their intentions."

The town hall, struggling to contain the problem with only six social workers, has appealed to families holding children to phone a special number. Pino Marchionna, the mayor, said he believed confusion would prove to be the main explanation. The refugee census was carried out under difficult conditions and was bound to be inaccurate and incomplete.

"I don't exclude the possibility that things may have been done that were not quite legal, but my impression is that local people showed a great willingness to look after these children," he said.

An Albanian father said that as he and his wife disembarked from a ship their daughter, aged two, was grabbed by a woman who ran towards voluntary workers. They have not seen her since. Another Albanian father turned up at midnight on Monday looking for his son at the Margiotta Institute, a home for abandoned children. Grazia Gallone, the president, said she had taken in 58 children, and had found temporary homes for 16. "They were exhausted and dirty. We had to give them everything."

Marvin Kraniqi, aged 2½, arrived with his uncle Mikel Hoxa, aged 23. The boy's mother thrust him into Mikel's arms as he boarded a ship, hoping it would lead to a better life, but Mikel was unable to look after him without help. Another child, Bledar Dellinja, aged six, lies in bed all day crying for his mother, and refusing food.

Some stories have had happier endings. Elvis Kavaglie, aged 17, and his brother Denis, aged 12, caught a ship to Italy three days after their mother, Tefta, but were unable to find her. The boys were shown on a television programme. Within two hours their mother had phoned a number shown on the screen. Yesterday Elvis said she was on her way from Naples to collect them. Their mother was among thousands of Albanians who were moved to camps in other parts of Italy.

An investigation has begun into the chaotic management of the refugee invasion.

Belgium regrets Gulf policy

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

MARK Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, yesterday came to Britain to mend fences after the substantial public relations damage done by Belgium's refusal to sell Britain ammunition before the Gulf war.

He said after a meeting with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that he regretted the decision. It arose from political differences within the five-party coalition government. It did not reflect Belgium's gratitude for British support in the past, or its willingness to help the British war effort in other ways. Belgium has contributed to British war costs since, and provided support for the Gulf operation in keeping with other European Community members.

He said Belgium and the EC had to draw lessons from the Gulf. A main challenge was to decide how the military burden should be shared within the EC. The inter-governmental conference on political union had to look at this urgently.

Belgium is one of the current members of the security council. Mr Eyskens said his country had identical views with Britain on the Middle East, and he spent time discussing the postwar situation with Mr Hurd.

Crime rate soars in eastern Germany

Bonn — Crime in eastern Germany increased by an average of 30 per cent in the first full year after the Berlin Wall came down, according to figures issued yesterday by the federal criminal office in Wiesbaden (Ian Murray writes).

Hans-Ludwig Zachert, president of the federal criminal office, said that the five eastern federal states had become "a lucrative field of operation" for organised crime.

During the year 299,781 crimes were registered, including a 50 per cent increase on the previous year in the number of thefts, which accounted for 60 per cent of the total figure. Herr Zacher said that there had been a 164 per cent increase in cases of robbery with menace, and a significant rise in blackmail, fraud, arson and driving unauthorised vehicles.

Links restored

Vienna — Albania is to re-establish diplomatic relations with the United States on March 15 after a break of more than 50 years. Relations broke down in 1945 when Tirana refused to recognise pre-war treaties. *(Reuter)*

Treasure plea

Mexico City — Mexico has requested the return from Austria of a feathered and jewel-studded headdress once worn by Moctezuma II, the Aztec emperor ousted during the Spanish conquest more than 470 years ago. *(Reuter)*

Woman leader

Dhaka — Begum Khaleda Zia, aged 47, will be appointed Bangladesh's first woman prime minister on Friday, officials said. Her Bangladesh Nationalist party has secured the support to give her a majority of 156 members.

Lighting-up time

Moscow — An unnamed Soviet man fined in Yalta for illegal dealing in cigarettes took revenge by setting fire to the court building with Molotov cocktails, Tass reported. Part of the building was destroyed. *(Reuter)*

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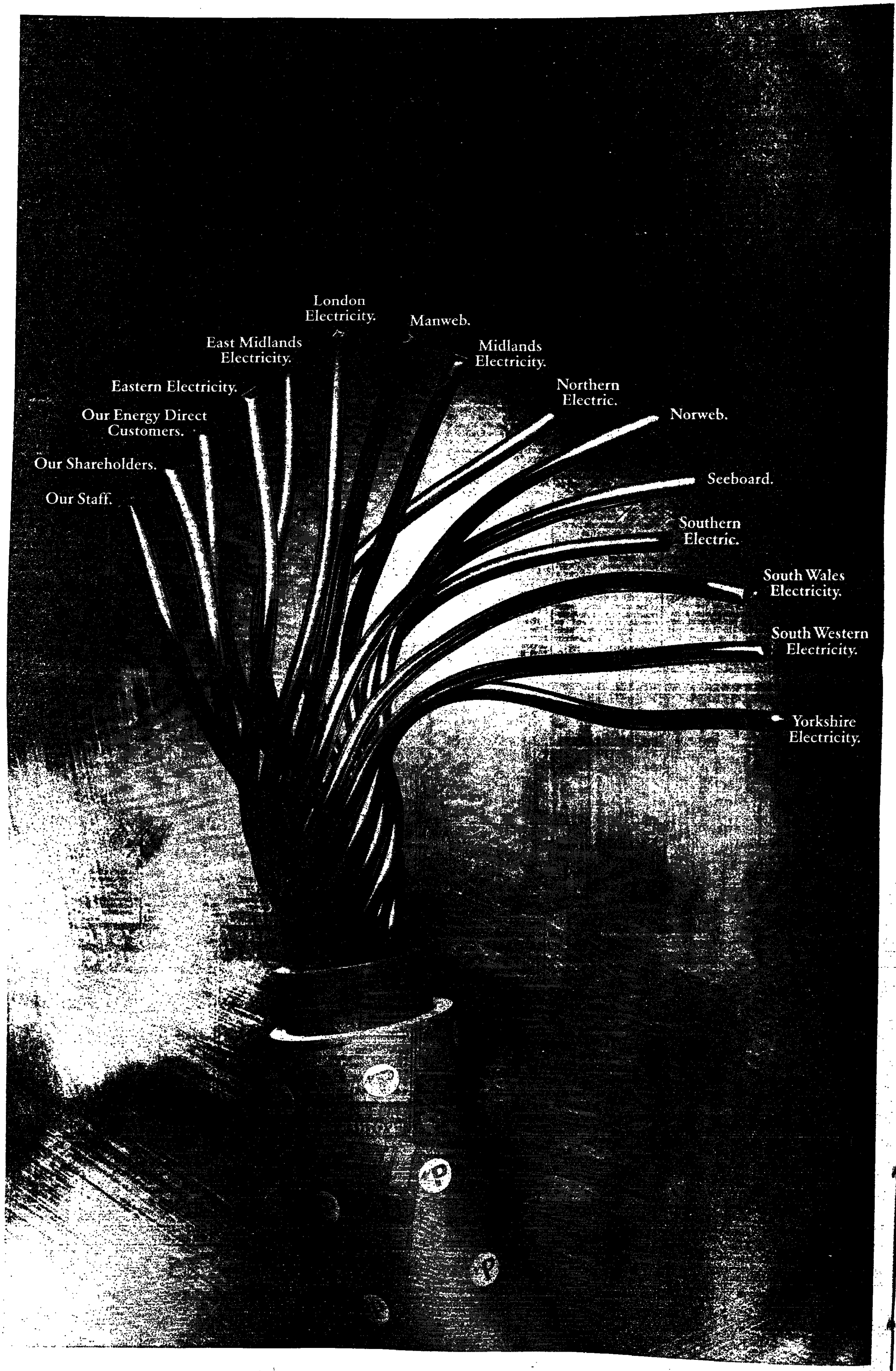
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Kazakhstan wins long battle over ballot papers

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN ALMA ATA

THE leadership of Kazakhstan in the southeastern-most corner of the Soviet Union yesterday won a long-running battle with Moscow for the right to change the wording of the question in Sunday's nationwide referendum on a new union treaty.

With the ballot papers already printed, Kazakhstan had been waiting nearly a week for a final response from Moscow to the challenge that no other republic had dared to mount. The positive response came yesterday afternoon. A delighted Amzebek Zholshibekov, the Kazakh chairman of the republic's central electoral commission, said: "I hardly wanted to admit that I was worried, but the answer comes as a great relief. It makes things much easier." Mr Zholshibekov will be running the referendum in what is the largest of the Soviet Union's five central Asian republics. Kazakhstan's own referendum will now be recognised as valid and the votes cast by the republic's 9.7 million electorate will be counted in the Soviet Union's national total. The solution benefits both sides.

For Moscow, the large majority likely to vote in favour of the union will boost the national total by several million votes. It will also maintain the number of republics participating fully at eight. If Kazakhstan's question had been ruled invalid, only seven – less than half the country's 15 republics – would be holding the referendum, which makes an important psychological difference.

For Kazakhstan, Moscow's decision fends off a potentially dangerous split between hardliners and progressives. Yesterday, officials were fearful that at least two cities, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Leninsk, would use ballot papers supplied by Moscow. The rest of the republic would abide by the near-unanimous decision of the republic's parliament and use the new, more liberal wording. Now, as Mr Zholshibekov argues, the two rebel cities would have no reason to use Moscow's ballot papers, given that Moscow has acknowledged the two versions are "essentially the same".

Officials here emphasise that an overwhelming vote in favour of preserving the Soviet Union has never been in doubt in Kazakhstan. They also insist that the Moscow and Kazakhstan versions are virtually identical.

While Moscow's question asks whether people "consider it necessary to preserve the United Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics in which the rights and freedoms of people of all nationalities are fully guaranteed", the Kazakhstan version asks voters whether they want to preserve the USSR as a "union of equal sovereign states, and that is all".

The Kazakhstan version, with fewer choices, may encourage more of the republic's voters to say "yes". More important, it will give the republic and Nursultan Nazarbayev, its leader, a degree of leverage in negotiating the future shape of the Soviet Union.

Genuine, guaranteed sovereignty, buttressed by the union is what Kazakhstan wants, with the right to run its internal and foreign trade. Kazakhstan has signed more bilateral economic agreements with other Soviet republics than any republic except the Ukraine.

But there are pockets of resistance epitomised in the loyal stance taken by Ust-Kamenogorsk and Leninsk and in a continued concern to present the face, if no longer the substance, of ideological orthodoxy.

Trabi jam: a Czechoslovakian walking past Trabant body shells stored for more than a year in a field in the eastern Bohemian town of Hradec Kralove. Although the price has been drastically cut there is almost no market for the cars, which were made in the former East Germany

Gorbachev fights to save treaty

Plans for a looser agreement binding the Soviet Union are a big step forward, but will fail to impress most of the republics, Bruce Clark writes

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's latest proposals to turn the Soviet Union into a looser federation would have astonished his radical critics if they had been published two years ago, and it is a sign of how fast things have changed that only seven republics approve them.

As published in the Soviet press in the past few days, the current draft of the new union treaty would impose no obligation on the republics to practise socialism, and it would uphold their freedom of choice in economic policy and property forms. The republics would be considered "full members of the international community", able to sign treaties and join world bodies, albeit subject to the Soviet Union's international obligations.

Signatories would undertake to respect the "norms of international law" with regard to human rights. They would also promise to work for an end to nuclear arms and all other weapons of mass destruction.

In what the Soviet leadership clearly sees as one of the treaty's main selling points, it contains elaborate guarantees of cultural and linguistic rights for ethnic minorities, many of which are assumed to be too small and scattered to survive in a disintegrating union.

The organisers of Sunday's referendum on the future of the Soviet Union are also driving home this point, with the main question expected to invite approval of a "renewed federation" in which the rights and freedoms of all nations would be secured.

The draft treaty has been broadly approved by senior officials of seven large republics, namely the Ukraine, Belorussia and five central Asian ones. The idea of participation has been virtually ruled out by six smaller republics which question the legitimacy of their incorporation into the Soviet Union: these are the Baltic republics, Georgia, Moldavia and Armenia. Azerbaijan has stayed away from recent talks on the treaty but may come round.

Russia has participated actively in the drafting process but still has many objections, as Boris Yeltsin, its president, declared last weekend. He is understood to be particularly concerned about the text's failure to distinguish adequately between full union republics and the 20 "autonomous republics" which have also approved the document in principle and will be full signatories.

Some 16 of these "mini-republics", including the vast, diamond-rich territory of Yakutia, lie inside the Russian Federation, and if all of them are given equal status with the union republics, then Mr Yeltsin could find Russia ungovernable.

Other recent additions to the text include a provision that republics may freely leave the union, "under a procedure laid down by the treaty participants". This would appear to supercede the tough law on secession passed by the Soviet parliament last year.

The few functions that are vested with the union under the current text include defence, intelligence, space research, the implementation of foreign policy, coordination of nationwide communications and of the fight against crime.

More clearly than before, the draft says the formulation of foreign and economic policy, the composition of the Soviet budget, and the adoption and amendment of the constitution must be done through co-operation between the central authorities and the republics. The same applies to the "management of a single fuel and energy" system and the use of the Soviet Union's gold and diamond reserves.

Finally, there is a clause saying that Soviet republics which refuse to sign will be treated under the old Soviet legislation.

Walesa seeks new investors

From PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday accused the West of throwing a "silver curtain" around Poland by not offering more help in implementing its painful economic reforms.

Mr Walesa, who begins an official trip to the United States next Tuesday, said he hoped to spread the message that Poland needs investment by American businesses, which until now have taken a wait-and-see approach to the Polish market.

"We (as part of the former Soviet bloc) were accused of setting up an iron curtain," Mr Walesa said. "But now I accuse the West of drawing a silver curtain." He said many Western countries still had visa requirements for Poles, most of whom seek to better their economic situation, and Western governments seemed to have forgotten Poland's leading role in engineering the collapse of communism.

The West should not regard Poland as a candidate for a handout, but an investment.

Museum secures $1bn art bequest

New York — The Metropolitan Museum of Art has won a behind-the-scenes struggle between America's leading galleries for the billion-dollar collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings belonging to Walter Annenberg, the publisher (Charles Bremner writes).

The bequest promised by Mr Annenberg, who turned 83 yesterday, includes more than 50 works by Manet, Degas, Monet, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Bonnard, Matisse, Picasso and Braque.

Mr Annenberg's decision to leave his beloved collection to the Met followed an intense campaign by museums in Los Angeles, Washington and his home city of Philadelphia for at least a part of his collection. Announcing his decision, he said: "I want to get the news out that the collection will be kept together and is not for sale."

Embassy alarm

Nairobi — After 18 days of lightning advances by Ethiopian rebels, the American embassy in Addis Ababa has sought "voluntary departure status" for its non-essential staff and their families, a senior diplomat in the capital said yesterday. "The speed with which things are moving is alarming," he said.

Seven to hang

Karachi — Seven Pakistan People's Party activists were sentenced to death by public hanging on charges of kidnapping a boy. Benazir Bhutto, the party leader and former prime minister, whose husband is being tried on charges of kidnapping, refused to comment. Hanging for kidnappers was introduced recently.

Royal baby

Tokyo — Emperor Akihito of Japan is to become a grandfather. Princess Kiko, the daughter of a university professor who married the monarch's second son, Prince Akishino, last June, is expecting a baby in October. *(Reuter)*

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Rapid expansion of the Marketing Group at Aston has created a number of new positions. The group consists of one Professor, two Senior Lecturers, four Lecturers and a Teaching Fellow. New positions are available for a further Professorial appointment and/or Readership, together with two Lectureships and/or Teaching Fellowships. Consideration will be given to the transfer of existing research groups to Aston.

The research emphasis of the Marketing Group within the Business School is in the area of International Marketing Strategy, exploring the many links of the School with other university business schools in Europe, North America and Australasia. A strong research orientation is essential for the new appointments.

Applications for the above posts are invited from suitably-qualified candidates with a specialisation in any area of marketing. For the senior posts, a proven research record is essential. For the lectureships applications will be welcome from recent graduates with good degree qualifications or from doctoral students in marketing close to completion of their theses. Excellent opportunities are provided by the positions for research in marketing, consultancy and collaboration with industry. For informal discussions contact Professor Graham Hooley, Professor of Marketing and Head of the Corporate Management Division at the Business School.

Lecturer and Teaching Fellow appointments may be made for an initial three-year term, with possibility of renewal or transfer to a continuing appointment. Continuing appointments are available at the Professor/Reader level for applicants with proven research records.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: Personnel Officer (Academic Staff) quoting Reference Number 9105/2, Aston University,

Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET
(021-359 0870 24-hour answerphone;
021-359 6470 Fax).
Closing date: 5th April, 1991.

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Following the retirement of Professor J. D. Halloran, applications are invited for the post of Professor of Mass Communications and Director of the Centre for Mass Communication Research tenable from 1 October 1991. The Centre has a strong international reputation for both postgraduate research and teaching. Undergraduate courses are being developed in collaboration with other Departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The successful candidate will be expected to provide academic leadership, to demonstrate an ability to generate research projects, and to encourage innovative teaching programmes. Applicants with interests in any field of Mass Communications are encouraged to apply.

Salary will be negotiated within the Professorial Range, current minimum £27,013 (under review).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Staffing Office (Academic Appointments), University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, telephone (0533) 522439. U.K. candidates should submit 14 copies of their application. (Overseas candidates may submit one copy). The University Fax Number is (0533) 522200.

Closing date for applications: 30 April 1991.

London Arts Board

Chief Executive

£35,000 – £40,000

As a result of Ministerial reforms of the funding structure of the arts, ten new regional arts boards have been created in England. The new London Arts Board will be a committee of the Arts Council for two years before becoming fully independent. The Board will have a budget of £10m.

The Chief Executive will report to the Secretary-General of the Arts Council, but will be directly responsible to the LAB Chairman, Clive Priestley, for the implementation of LAB policies. He/she will have responsibility for developing and managing the work of the new Board. This will require implementing a strategic plan and an appropriate staffing structure; ensuring sound budgetary control and financial planning; establishing assessment and monitoring procedures for grant recipients; and ensuring a high public profile for the Board and the Region's artistic life.

Candidates should have substantial senior management experience. Proven leadership and communication skills are essential. Candidates should demonstrate a knowledge of, and commitment to, the arts.

The appointment is initially for a period of 5 years. Further details and application forms can be obtained from: Director of Planning, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Tel: 071-333 0100 ext. 249. Closing date for applications is: Friday 5th April, 1991.

The London Arts Board is an equal opportunities employer; it warmly welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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Salary £27,871 to £35,720 p.a. according to experience, these figures include £1750 London Weighting. A 3 year contract is envisaged. Candidates must have proven fund raising experience and the ability to lead and co-ordinate a programme in support of a large organisation.

Further details and an application form (to be returned by 21 March 1991) are available from Personnel (Recruitment), 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH. Telephone: 071-323 7331.

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The successful candidate will have had experience in technology transfer in an academic or industrial context. A background in science or engineering would be useful but is not essential.

The post, which is based on Imperial College's South Kensington campus, carries a negotiable salary and other benefits.

Applications with a cv should be sent by 31 March 1991 to: The Chief Executive, IMPEL, Sherfield Building, London SW7 2AZ.

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Awards are not the only fruit

Beyond the glitter of prestige prizes, the BBC is battling to put its house in order, Melinda Wittstock reports

The ink had barely dried on the Broadcasting Act late last year when a veritable army of pundits, media consultants, civil servants, broadcasters and party think-tank gurus, until then preoccupied with transforming commercial television, refocused its mind on the BBC.

The corporation swept the board in the recent Royal Television Society journalism awards and is heavily represented in this year's Bafta award nominations, but that has not lessened the debate raging on every aspect of the BBC's future, five years away from the expiry of its present royal charter.

At the heart of the debate is how to preserve and improve the BBC as a quality public service broadcaster, while identifying ways in which the corporation can be made more efficient.

Reports on the BBC by two Tory lobby groups, the first trickle of an expected flood, were published on Monday. The Tory Reform Group and the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies somewhat unexpectedly defend the licence fee and reject advertising, sponsorship and direct government grant as replacements.

But both support a further squeeze on licence fee increases as a way of forcing the corporation to cut costs, including reducing the number of management tiers.

The BBC debate dominates broadcasting conferences. Hordes of media consultants have been trying to persuade government broadcasting officials to let them, in the words of one Home Office spokesman, "take a crack at it".

The corporation itself, criticised for muteness under attack in the past, is becoming more talkative.

Internal task forces, comprised of younger employees from all corners of the BBC, are being set up to evaluate BBC activities and develop a strategy for the corporation.

"The task forces must produce fresh ideas, and they must not be afraid of thinking radically," says Michael Checkland, the director-general. "The emphasis in their membership will be on younger, up-and-coming people, who are able to look at the organisation in a more critical and dispassionate way, perhaps, than some of us who have already spent most of our careers in it. I expect them to be rigorous."

Patricia Hodgson, the head of policy and planning, and Howell James, the director of corporate affairs, are combing through lists of employees to find nine or ten suitable people for each of the 15 task forces. The names will be revealed later this week.

Each task force, due to report back in a year, will focus on one aspect of the BBC's activity and assess the quality and range of programmes the public should expect.

Themes include the BBC as an entertainer, an information-provider, a cultural patron, an educator, an employer, a technical innovator, an entrepreneur, and as the supposed standard-setter for British broadcasting.

"The outcome of these deliberations will, in effect, be a redefinition of the BBC's function," Mr Checkland says.

How radical can the rethink be? The task forces will work under terms of reference to be finalised within two weeks. Advertising and subscription as alternative means of funding are pretty much ruled out, along with changes in output, such as the privatisation of Radio One and Radio Two, that would have the BBC cater only to highbrow tastes.

Critics' choice: but accolades for Charlotte Coleman, David Attenborough and Susannah Harker will not silence all critics

Mr Checkland says: "The premise for the task forces is that public service broadcasting is a distinctive and vital element of a British tradition that must be preserved. And the essential characteristics of public service broadcasting remain what we have always considered them to be: universality, impartiality, quality and accountability.

"The key point is that the public service broadcaster's duty is to the public, not to any particular interest — whether advertiser, sponsor, shareholder or government.

"If you start to limit public service to those programmes which the free market might not be able to support, it is no longer a service for the public. It is a service for groups on the margin of the public."

Jonathan Powell, the controller of BBC1, rejects the "elitist views" of those who propose that popular programmes, which commercial television is more than capable of producing, should be dropped. "We would not be able to attract a three million audience for *Omnibus* if there were not popular programmes in the schedule. Everyone pays the licence fee, so why chop one part of the service?"

Calls for the BBC to rely more on independent producers if they can make a programme more cheaply have already been accepted by Will Wyatt, the managing director-designate of BBC Television. So have proposals to cut costs by making individual producers responsible for their budgets, "buying" in-house services in an "internal market".

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, says that the internal market will mean more money for programmes. "Financial control will be given to the individual programme producers who will decide which facilities to use."

Mr Yentob says too much use of independents "would lead to an unbalanced service. It has to be rationalised and competitive, but making it too slim would mean a decline in standards."

BBC promotions 'distort market'

Cross-media inquiry finding may go to monopolies commission

BY USING its television airtime to advertise its own magazines, the BBC has "distorted competition" to the disadvantage of the publishers of rival magazines who do not have access to low cost television promotion (*Melinda Wittstock writes*).

The conclusion comes from John Sadler, chairman of a year-long government inquiry into cross-media promotion, who makes a strong recommendation for the immediate referral of the Corporation's practices to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mr Sadler said that the BBC had "exceeded the limit of propriety by a wide margin".

But BBC Enterprises, which now invests £45 million a year in BBC programmes, said it should not be prevented from promoting magazines linked directly to programmes.

The Sadler inquiry was originally set up to investigate widespread editorial cross-promotion by newspapers of other commercial interests owned by their proprietors. But the activities of News International newspapers in promoting Sky Television and Associated Newspapers in promoting BSB have led only to a minor wrist-slapping.

Mr Sadler said that while newspapers on both sides of the pre-merger battle between BSB and Sky indulged in "puffing" their own products and "knocking" competitors, an MMC reference was not necessary as their cross-promotional activities did not limit competition in the satellite television market to the same degree that the BBC's activities limit competition in the magazine market.

He has "invited" newspapers, under the auspices of the Press Complaints Commission and the Advertising Standards Authority, both self-regulatory bodies, to draw up a code of conduct to prevent such abuses.

All substantial news items about an associate company should include a statement about the ownership link, while each newspaper should publish at regular intervals, a list of the significant media interests of its associates in a prominent place, the report said. Newspapers should not refuse to accept advertisements from their competitors or their proprietor's rivals, nor should they charge higher prices for comparable space to their competitors. All adverts in a newspaper for an associate company should include a statement about the ownership link.

MEDIA WATCH

Press setback

RECENT setbacks to press freedom in the Soviet Union may signal the death of glasnost, the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers has warned the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The federation says the killing of journalists in Latvia, the occupation of Latvian and Lithuanian printing plants and paper warehouses by Soviet troops, the harassment of Soviet journalists and the examination of "measures to ensure the objectivity of the media" are "clear indications that the Soviet authorities only intend to tolerate glasnost and press freedom when it serves their interests".

Capital launch

A NEW London listings magazine is being launched next month to compete with *Time Out*, *City Limits*, *What's On* and *Good Times*, the freesheet. The *London Magazine*, a 132-page glossy to be distributed free each month to an initial 80,000 households across central and west London and the City, claims to have already secured 80 pages of pre-booked advertising space in each issue for the rest of the year. Inc Publications, which also owns *Airport* magazine, plans to distribute the *London Magazine* additionally at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

Thames in private PR deal

ROY Addison, the press and publicity director at Thames Television, has succeeded in his bid to privatise the station's press office. Mr Addison, who has been with Thames for 18 years and handled the promotion of *The World At War*, *Rumpole of the Bailey*, *Minder* and the controversial *This Week* investigation, *Death on the Rock*, has won an exclusive contract with Thames to personally handle its corporate media relations, as well as a non-exclusive contract for his team to handle Thames's programme PR. The first television station to privatise its press office, Thames will make substantial savings on salaries — Mr Addison hopes to bring "a nucleus of seven" people with him instead of the current staff of 11.

Name droppers

Leo McKern as Rumpole

ADVERTISERS have been given a list of the first programmes on the ITV network that may be sponsored under the new ITV sponsorship code. They include Thames's *Rumpole of the Bailey* and *This Is Your Life*, Anglia's *Survival* and *Chimera*, HTV's *Great Expectations*, Granada's *Krypton Factor*, Central's *Boon* and Tyne Tees's *The Cookson Dramas*. Jonathan Shier, chairman of the ITV Association's marketing committee, says sponsorship "extends the opportunities for advertisers to communicate to customers".

Action-packed television

THE world's first 150-channel, two-way interactive cable television system will begin broadcasting in Queens, New York, later this year. Time Warner said the new fibre-optic system is equipped to handle high-definition and wide-screen TV, as well as voice interactivity, and links with computers, fax machines and mobile telephone networks. With digital compression techniques, it will also soon be able to offer viewers thousands of "targeted narrowcast" channels. Steven Ross, Time Warner's chairman and chief executive, says: "This video highway into the home will make possible consumer services like electronic banking, travel booking and remote medical diagnoses."

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Infovision

Thatcherism still lives

Woodrow Wyatt

To go or not to go. That is the question Mr Major must be asking himself about an early election. The arguments against one are strong: it could look like cashing in on the success of the Gulf war before the public is able to reflect on the bleakness of our immediate economic prospects. Also, the time is too short to provide a broadly palatable package to answer the riddle of funding local government.

That Churchill was routed in the 1945 election, though he had just won the war, is not a good augury. But Churchill was perceived as heir to pre-war Tory governments complacent about the glaring injustices of our society, and they did not seem his principal concern. The Falklands war was neutral in its effect on Mrs Thatcher's 1983 election win and so will be the Gulf war, whatever the date of the next election.

Obviously, the opposition will concentrate now on the government's recent appalling economic record. Paradoxically, this could be to the government's advantage. A Gallup poll in last Friday's *Daily Telegraph* asked one of its regular standard questions: "With Britain in economic difficulties, which party do you think could handle the problem best?" Fifty-three per cent favoured the Conservatives and only 29 per cent Labour. Labour's reputation for dealing with economic emergencies has always been low, though it could rise the longer the election is delayed while unemployment increases and more businesses collapse.

The public is clearly unhappy with the community charge. Confidence that it (or any alternative) was beginning to seem fairer than rates, has been much dissipated by the government itself.

The three candidates in last November's second round of the Tory leadership contest declared that the basis of the community charge was so unsound that it must be urgently reviewed, and no options barred. Nothing the government now puts forward can operate before June 1992. The public will not know whether the new ideas are better than the old. Consequently, the timing of the election is irrelevant to the community charge, particularly as the other parties are lumbered with proposals more likely to provoke general dismay than approval.

Since Mrs Thatcher's May 1979 victory there have been elections every four years in early June. Mr Major could not credibly be accused of cutting and running if he continues the pattern. His opinion poll standing ascends remarkably high, notwithstanding Ribble Valley, where the BBC's accurate exit poll demonstrated that if it had been a general election the Tories would have won comfortably, despite the community charge. It is not the duty of the prime minister to wait for an election date more favourable to the opposition when his own "honeymoon" popularity inevitably will have diminished. The longer he goes beyond June, the more he will be boxed in as Mr Callaghan was when he raised expectations of an election in October 1978, and then avoided it. He was forced humiliatingly on the ropes by a parliamentary defeat on March 28, 1979, followed by dissolution on April 7.

Nor need Mr Major fear the "time for a change" slogan potent against long-serving governments. Politically streetwise, he has persuaded the country that he is the change. But are Conservative MPs sufficiently behind Mr Major for him to take his tide at full flood?

Many of the 204 who voted for Mrs Thatcher last November are still bruised and angered at her shabby removal. They are disturbed by intimations of backsliding from Thatcherism by Mr Major or cabinet ministers. They recognise that Mr Major, Mrs Thatcher's favourite son, has handled the Gulf war superbly and soared in public estimation, but they are not convinced he has the same crusading zeal for Thatcherism as its founder. Mrs Thatcher herself, in America last week, said: "I see a tendency to try to undermine what I have achieved and to go back to giving more powers to government."

There has been talk of a social market from the Conservative party chairman. There have been hints that privatisation of non-medical services in the National Health Service may be slowed down. Some Tory MPs, together with some outside parliament with Thatcherite convictions, even think it might be a blessing if Labour won the next election, to re mind the country of the grisly nature of the pre-Thatcher world and that any apparent move towards some kind of consensus with Labour's outlook is a disaster.

> ‘Many MPs are disturbed by intimations of backsliding. I was slightly inclined to this mood, but no longer’

I was slightly inclined to this mood, but no longer. On Saturday Mr Major said: "We have been going in a particular direction for 10 years and we shall continue to go in that direction... If she thinks that her efforts are being overturned, she will, of course, speak out. Otherwise, there are enough of her followers for her presence alone to be a deterrent..." I believe Mr Major means what he says.

He has already said that everything which can feasibly be privatised will be. He has reaffirmed his determination to carry through the NHS reforms, giving hospitals the right to run themselves and to proceed with the opting out of schools. He is as stout as Mrs Thatcher ever was on not joining a single currency, a central European bank responsible to nobody or a politically unified federal Europe. As a realistic pro-European she led enthusiastically the drive to end trade barriers in the single market, though the others lagged behind and still do. What Mr Major said in Bonn on Monday in his own style differed not an iota from Mrs Thatcher's practical European policy.

She would have won an early June election and John Major can, too, if his own side does not quarrel behind him. I suspect he is glad there are enough ardent Thatcherites to keep him and his government to her aims and standards, which are also his.

Where ignorance is far from bliss

Jack Straw says that history lessons should not end in 1963

The history of the Gulf war will not be taught within the national curriculum until the year 2020, if Parliament approves before Easter proposals from Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. For a generation and a half no English state school pupil under 16 will be taught what happened on January 15, 1991 or — more importantly — why.

Mr Clarke has laid down a 30-year rule for the teaching of history in state schools in England. This is a decision that displays deep distrust of teachers and will undermine public confidence in the idea of a national curriculum.

"Tell the children that Wolfe won Quebec," Churchill told R. A. Butler on his appointment in 1941 to the presidency of the education board. "I said that I would like to influence what was taught in schools, but that this was always frowned upon," Butler says in his autobiography, *The Art of the Possible*, to which Churchill replied: "Of course, not by instruction or order, but by suggestion."

For 20 years I have taken a less relaxed view than Butler about the curriculum. I think it is right that Parliament should have a role in laying down the framework of what is taught in schools, in better defining the entitlement of each child to an education. But there are obviously dangers that without proper checks, such parliamentary and ministerial power might be abused, or used for partisan ends.

Butler was alive to these dangers; so, too, were Mr Clarke's immediate predecessors, Kenneth Baker and John MacGregor. Mr Baker established a careful procedure whereby the national curriculum would be prepared by working parties and a National Curriculum Council, all appointed by ministers, but kept at arm's-length from them. But the effective operation of these procedures was always expected to depend, as so often in Britain, upon the convention of self-denial by politicians, rather than upon explicit rules. Because history and politics are so intertwined, history was bound to pose the greatest test of these conventions.

The original proposals of the history working party aroused great debate about the balance between facts and understanding. Mr MacGregor referred this back to the curriculum council. It took account of his views, and many others, and brought forward revised proposals for which there was wide agreement.

In July 1990, Mr MacGregor endorsed the proposal for British history up to the present day to be taught, arguing only for a "better overview" of 20th-century history, particularly the development of the European Community.

Then, unexpectedly, Mr Clarke was appointed secretary of state to replace him. Over Christmas he took his blue pencil to the draft curriculum. History, he decided, was to stop in the 1960s. The result is bizarre. The Berlin Wall was deleted, replaced by the Berlin airlift, modern Britain by Victorian Britain.

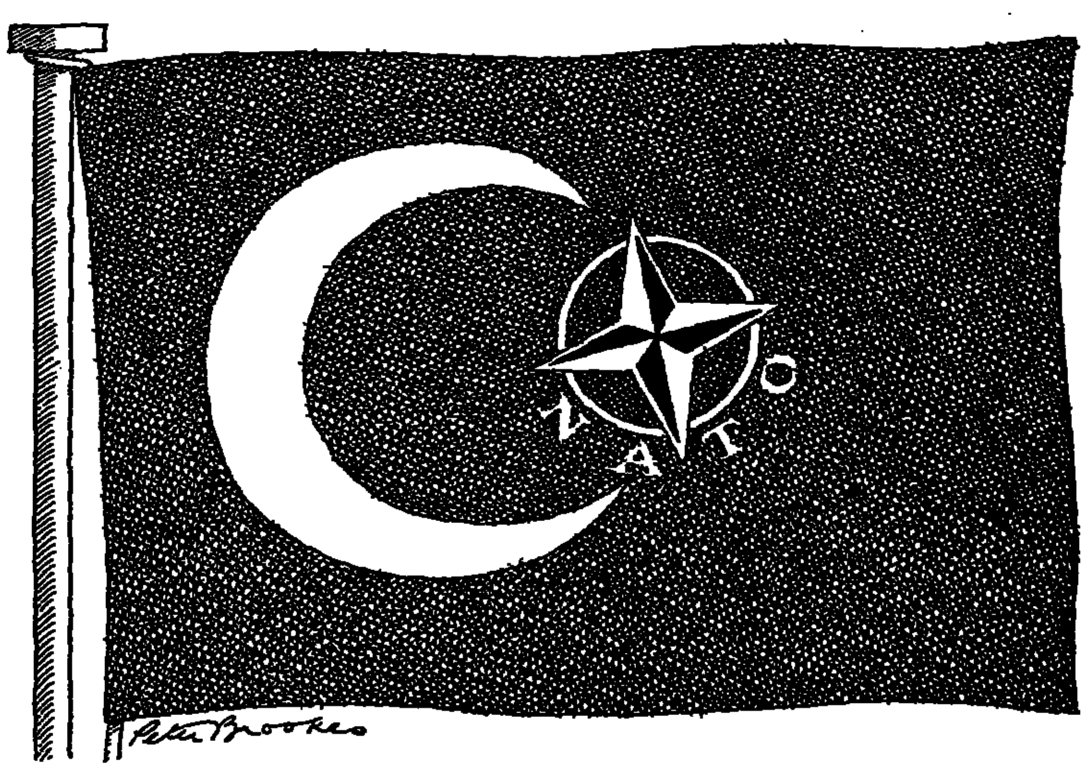
Early 1960s end-dates were then inserted. The consequence of these is that the Americans are about to win in Vietnam, apartheid is fully effective in South Africa, large parts of Africa are still colonies, and Middle East history stops with the Six Day war in 1967. The Yom Kippur war, with its influence on today's Middle East tragedy, is beyond mention.

Mr Clarke claims that national curriculum history should not go beyond the early 1960s "because of the difficulty of treating such matters with a historical perspective". All of this, he says, is "current affairs". But two-thirds of all GCSE history syllabuses do go beyond the early 1960s. Mr Clarke has been unable to produce to Parliament any evidence of a lack of historical perspective in such teaching. His assertion that anything after the early 1960s is "current affairs" is patently absurd. None of the children studying this curriculum were born before 1980 (and many of the teachers were born after 1965). "Current affairs" — itself a peculiarly 1960s idea — is about events in the news.

What adds to the anomalous nature of Mr Clarke's prohibition is that it will not apply to children in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, nor to children in private schools, exempt from the national curriculum. So Conservative cabinet ministers' children will be able to study the history of the Gulf war some time in the 1990s. Other people's children will have to wait until they have children.

The author is Labour spokesman on education.

Neighbourhood watch



The West should strengthen Nato forces in Turkey, but leave Arabs and Iranians in charge of ensuring peace in the Gulf region, writes **Anthony Parsons**

Gulf security, regional arms control and disarmament, and a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict: these appear to be the bases for the new world order in the Middle East along with even broader aspirations, such as democratisation in the area of the world hitherto most resistant to glasnost and perestroika, and a more equitable distribution of oil wealth.

When the dust of the Gulf war has settled, I doubt whether the security from external threat of the militarily weak and oil-rich states of the Arabian peninsula is going to present as complex a problem as many commentators have suggested, or structures as elaborate as those under discussion in Damascus between the eight Arab states.

This may sound complacent in view of the magnitude of the earthquake just experienced. But the fact is that Iraq, congenitally restless and unstable, is the only state in the region that has presented a threat to the territorial integrity of its neighbours. Iran has not: even in the first flush of the 1979 revolution I do not believe that Tehran contemplated an invasion of any part of the Arab shore.

Hence, the answer is not to try to construct politically provocative (to Iran) defence pacts on "Gulf Nato" lines with American and European air and naval forces providing back-up to, say, Egyptian and Syrian ground forces allied to and financed by the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman). Something of this kind may be necessary in the short term. What is needed in the longer run is a return to the cooperative relationship betweeen Saudi Arabia and Iran, which helped to check Iraqi ambitions and keep the peace for eight years after the termination of the British protective treaties with the small Gulf states in 1971.

There are already signs of a revival of this rapprochement between the two sides, which was sundered by the Iranian revolution and the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Let there by all means be "over the horizon" American and European support for the time being, but the essence of security must derive from close and vigilant cooperation between the Gulf states. If Iraq should ever again show aggressive tendencies, the knowledge that an attack on the GCC would constitute an attack on Iran as well should act as a powerful deterrent.

If the West still remains concerned about the possibility of Saddam or his like seeking to dominate 50 per cent of the world's oil resources, an additional deterrent would be to move much of the military centre of gravity of Nato from Western Europe, where the threat has disappeared, to Turkey, still "in area", where it would be better placed to counter fresh dangers.

Arms control and disarmament are going to be harder to achieve. The war is bound to stimulate desire among the GCC states, Egypt, Israel and others for the sophisticated equipment which performed so effectively in the war. This will be difficult to resist for a number of obvious reasons. But if met, there will be another arms sales spree analogous to that which, over the past decade or so, produced the military monster, Saddam Hussein.

Obviously no government, even the Soviet Union, will be criminal enough to rearm Iraq for a long time to come, but another arms race, even among "friends" (not forgetting how "friendly" the Soviet Union and France were with Iraq in this sense until last August) must be avoided.

If governments are genuine in their wish to exercise restraint over arms sales to the Middle East, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) could be a useful forum in which to give their policy expression. The great majority of arms-exporting countries, including the Soviet Union and America, are members of the CSCE. Could it not establish a committee in which requests for arms purchases and the transfer of military technology from governments in areas of conflict could be considered and met only if there were to be general agreement that they would not encourage aggression or make conflict more likely? This may sound fanciful, but a similar arrangement between Britain, France and America worked in the Middle East from 1950-55 until the Soviet Union made an arms deal with Egypt. Could Europe, plus America, not now put peace before East-West and West-West commercial competition?

At the demand end it must surely have dawned on Arabs and Israelis alike that they have common ground in the need for arms control and disarmament, particularly regarding weapons of mass-destruction, such as the Scuds which landed on Israel and Saudi Arabia. Could this be a way into the search for Arab-Israeli peace? Could the Americans not use the vast prestige which the victory will have given them to persuade Arab governments to sit down with Israel to discuss this question as a preliminary to consideration of the wider issues of recognition and peace? This would meet the Israeli wish for bilateral negotiations and put an end to the anachronistic refusal of Arab governments formally to recognise Israel's existence.

Such a meeting would, of course, have to be parallel to progress on the Palestine problem, a nut which has now resisted cracking for more than 70 years. Here the difficulties have been compounded by Saddam's aggression. After Yassir Arafat's glowing support for Saddam, no one is going to try to persuade the Israelis to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation as at present constituted.

But, now the curfew has been lifted, the Palestinians are emerging full of despair, frustration and anger. The intifada has revived. No Israeli can believe that genuine peace can be achieved on the basis of the status quo or of giving the Palestinians limited autonomy in a greater Israel. Expulsion, the preferred solution of Israeli extremists, would guarantee an indefinite state of war between Israel and the Arab world. Some solution must be found which guarantees Israeli security from terrorist or other attack, and gives the Palestinians a homeland free of alien occupation. Easier said than done, but another opportunity has come round.

America must now use all its prestige to induce greater flexibility in the Israeli attitude to the future of the occupied territories and to negotiating with Palestinians of Palestinian, not Israeli, choosing. The leading Arab states must encourage the emergence of a new generation of Palestinian leadership, representative of both the diaspora and the occupied territories. The parties must be brought face to face. Perhaps the ultimate solution lies in a kind of confederation between Israel and "Palestine". Absurd? No more so than reconciliation between French and Germans after three atrocious wars in 70 years.

Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to the United Nations, 1979-82, and has been a diplomat in six Arab capitals.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

More and more I am finding that people simply don't know how to misbehave at parties. You arrive at a party, an attentive host leads you to a roomful of pleasant people, they engage you in interesting, amusing conversation, talking a little bit about themselves, a little bit about you and a little bit about topics of mutual interest; nobody drinks too much, nobody picks a quarrel and, at the allotted time, you all leave, waving merrily (but not too merrily) and vowing to keep in touch.

Of course, in the old days they really knew how to lay on a perfectly dreadful evening, but nowadays people just don't seem to go to the trouble. They'd rather leave a room spick and span, carpets unstained, vases intact, with only the odd cushion slightly out of place.

It seems ages since a halfway-decent havoc has been wreaked. The Johnny-Come-Latelys have all gone, too, to be replaced by the Johnny-Come-Bang-On-Time, Johnny-Leave-Early, Johnny-Send-Prompt-Thank-You-Letters. The young these days just do not show the faintest lack of consideration for their hosts.

I trust that all this will change with the opening of a new finishing school, Wink 'n' Feel Place, where school-leavers will be given a first-class grounding in Disgraceful Manners, Applied Slouching, Resentful Stares and Self, Self, Self.

This one-year Diploma Course formally starts in September and goes through until July, but candidates will be expected to turn up late without so much as a word of warning sometime halfway through November and to push off again around late August, leaving the ashtrays overflowing, the plates unwashed and the lavatories in a terrible state.

Working through the following curriculum, students will gain a basic knowledge of thoughtless behaviour and will be fluent in 20 different areas of standard irritation.

Month 2: if the student bothers to show up at all, he should saunter any-old-how into the principal's office, first taking care not to knock. Over a cup of coffee, into which he will be expected to dunk his cigarette stub, he will be given a full timetable to enable him to turn up precisely halfway through lectures. A variety of fresher parties will be thrown in the first month, but don't worry if you start by shaking hands, listening attentively and offering thanks: old habits are hard to shake off in these early stages.

Months 3-4: with the aid of dummies, the student will be tutored in staring over shoulders in search of someone rather more interesting. Before the end of the first week he will have reached a state of proficiency whereby he can spend anything up to 15 minutes looking at other people in the room without a frontward glance at the person who is talking to him.

Month 5: the candidate will be expected to disappear without leaving any excuse whatsoever, at no point alerting the school as to his whereabouts. Towards the end of the month advanced students may consider getting a drunken friend to phone the principal with an excuse so far-fetched as to be insulting.

Month 6: the Visiting Reader in Coin-Jangling will be giving a series of lectures on the "Role of the Coin-Jangler as a Social Irritant". Pupils will be instructed in clinking pound coins together while simultaneously jogging from one foot to the other. This will afford them preparation for the Car Showroom Party, where such behaviour is obligatory.

Month 7: Musical Instruction. Students are expected to pick one course from the following:
(a) mouthing the words of songs while dancing with an exaggerated look of *angst* on the face;
(b) playing dummy guitar to old Led Zeppelin numbers;
(c) bringing the party to a standstill by placing a Monty Python record on the turntable and joining in with the funny voices.

Month 8: Ruining Others' Anecdotes. Timing your "So what happened then?" to coincide with the end of an anecdote; saying: "Can I get you another drink?" five seconds before the punch line; saying: "Actually, that once happened to me" at conclusion of riotous story.

You are cordially requested to settle the term's fees far too late, after much quibbling, and preferably with a stolen credit card.

THE TIMES DIARY

A price on her head

Mrs Thatcher is commanding a minimum $50,000 (£27,000) a speech to rival Ronald Reagan as the world's highest-paid speaker on the international lecture circuit. The former prime minister has been signed up by the Washington Speakers' Bureau, the agency which has also secured the services of the former American president.

The initial approach was made last November, even before Mrs Thatcher left Downing Street, when Harry Rhoads, the agency president, was on the telephone to her private office offering Croesus-style riches for her exclusive services. The bureau had a persuasive argument: it had already made Reagan the highest-paid speaker in the world.

But Mrs Thatcher delayed her decision until after she had discussed the matter with Reagan when they met for tea at Claridge's last December.

The bureau is understood to have secured an exclusive contract for her services in America, similar to the one it has with Reagan. Bidding for either speaker is said to start at $50,000 per lecture, plus expenses. This puts them way ahead of the recent heroes of the Gulf war.

Another agency, Greater Talent Network Inc, has drawn up a league table of what it believes it could get on the lecture circuit for the hottest properties. It quotes $20,000-$30,000 for Norman Schwarzkopf, $17,000-$28,000 for Colin Powell, and $15,000-$20,000 for Peter Arnett of CNN.

Outside America, Mrs Thatcher could earn even more. Reagan negotiated a record $2 million for a lecture tour of Japan, although he now stipulates that venues must be no more than an hour's flight from his Californian ranch.

The competition to secure Mrs Thatcher was intense, however. The Harry Walker Speaking Agency, which has been established for much longer than the Washington Speakers' Bureau, made a desperate bid. It is said to have lost out on the advice of Ronald Reagan, whose wife Nancy objected to the fact that her old enemy, Donald Regan, the president's former chief of staff, was on its client list.

● *The excuse that Derek Walcott could not attend the ceremony to pick up his prize of £10,000 as winner of the W. H. Smith Literary award due to the demands of theatrical rehearsals in America, seemed pretty slim. The real reason emerged discreetly at the prizegiving lunch yesterday. The vagaries of the American immigration system had left the St Lucia-born writer fearful that once he left America he could not be guaranteed a visa to return, a risk he deemed not worth taking, even for a slap-up meal at London's South Bank centre — especially when the organisers were happy to put his cheque in the post.*

God or Mammon?

A living god is coming to Britain tomorrow and has created a delicate problem of protocol. The Ooni of Ife, the divine king of the Yoruba people of Nigeria, will meet the humble and mortal Tim Renton, the arts minister, when the two open an exhibition of African art at the Horniman museum in London.

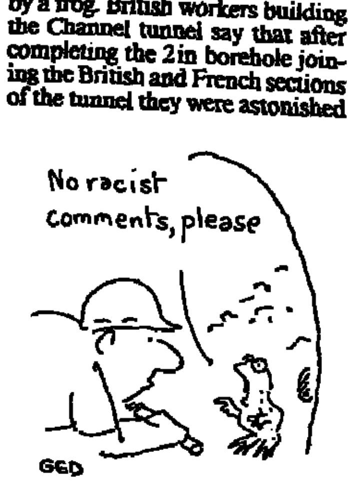
The museum has searched long and hard to discover the correct protocol for a minister meeting a god, but has so far drawn a blank.

The delicate question of whether Renton should kneel to greet the Ooni has been troubling Horniman staff. Yesterday they thought he would not be required to do so; instead the plan is that when the minister greets the divinity there will be a drum roll on the tribal tom-toms. That ought to suffice, the museum hopes. After all, the Ooni is only a part-time god.

Off-duty, explains a spokesman, the divinity is a commodities broker.

Leap of faith

The first dry land crossing between Britain and France since the Ice Age was made by a frog. British workers building the Channel tunnel say that after completing the 2in borehole joining the British and French sections of the tunnel they were astonished when a small frog, dispatched by their French counterparts, jumped out of the borehole and into the British half of the tunnel.



Red-faced Eurotunnel officials deny the story, insisting that anyone caught smuggling animals into the tunnel faces instant dismissal.

● *Many of Mike Carr's most loyal supporters were in the House of Commons visitors' gallery yesterday to see him sworn in as the new MP for Ribble Valley. But they only just made it. So confident were the Tories that their candidate, Nigel Evans, would win that they had snapped up all the complimentary tickets in advance. A rather sheepish Tory Whip yesterday handed over the tickets to Carr's contingent, which included most of the Liberal Democrat's seven children, just before the new MP took the oath.*

Surprise booking

South Africa will surely be shaken to its remaining apartheid roots to hear that Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela's second-in-command, was spotted on a plane last week in the company of Eugene Terre Blanche, the leader of South Africa's far right. The political enemies were seated next to each other quite by chance by South African Airways, which does not enforce apartheid on internal flights, and were observed in animated conversation.

During the two-hour flight from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth, Terre Blanche expressed fascination at Sisulu's tales, and suggested he might write his memoirs.

"I've already published my autobiography," Sisulu replied. Terre Blanche said he would love to read the book and the African National Congress man told him to go and buy one. "But I want you to sign it for me," insisted Terre Blanche. Sisulu relented and agreed to send his unlikely new acquaintance a signed, complimentary copy.

DETERRING SADDAM

President Saddam Hussein has ordered loyalist troops to suppress the uprisings against his regime with maximum brutality. The use once again of chemical weapons against his own people has not been confirmed but is within his capability and his character. The world normally regards the odiousness of tyrants towards their internal opponents as calling for strong words rather than strong actions. Is Saddam just another such case?

The success of the allied coalition was certainly what has now triggered the insurrection against him. The concept of "finishing the job we came to do" is always a strong one for armies still in the theatre of operations. The coalition has enough military might in the area to intervene swiftly and world outrage may yet goad it to that end. But against that must be set the overriding Western objective following the liberation of Kuwait: to withdraw as soon as possible and not to play policeman to a notoriously explosive region.

Any return to hostilities in Iraq by the United States and its allies would have to satisfy two criteria. It would have to be both legally justified and politically sensible. The allies freed Kuwait lawfully under the authority of the UN Security Council. Article 2.7 of the UN Charter, outlawing external intervention, has been modified in customary law by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and by the 1966 Geneva conventions, which hold states to minimum standards of behaviour towards their citizens. True, the 1925 convention banning the use in war of "asphyxiating gases" did not mention their use against internal enemies. But this was an omission, not a qualification of what was intended to be a general ban. These weapons are outlawed globally.

In addition, the Article 3 common to all four 1949 Geneva conventions covers "armed conflict not of an international character". It expressly forbids the use of violence, murder, cruel treatment and torture against civilians. The risk of this in Iraq is real. In charge of crushing the present revolt Saddam has put his cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, who was directly responsible both for the 1988 gas attacks and for the early reign of terror in Kuwait. Allied intelligence has intercepted orders from Baghdad authorising loyalist troops to use chemical weapons against the rebels.

The UN authorisation for the military operation in the Gulf under resolution 678 is still live. There is as yet no permanent ceasefire, only a cessation of hostilities. The allies cannot report back to the security council that "all necessary means" have been used to restore "international peace and security in the area" if thousands of Iraqis are spilling across its frontiers in flight, least of all if they are fleeing from Saddam's use of internationally banned weapons which were used against Iran and against Iraqi Kurds.

Action would be legally justifiable. But it would be politically hazardous. America did no good in Lebanon by trying to bomb a nation into peace and concord. Bombs may be effective as a precursor to a land assault, but they have a grim record in civil war. Nothing is more likely to strengthen such sympathy as there may still be for Saddam in the Middle East as American bombers siding with the Kurds and Shiites. Not only Iraqis might be enraged by America thus intervening in a sovereign Arab state, especially if America found herself intervening alone.

For the present, the best policy would be for the allies to notify Saddam and the UN Security Council that they would regard any use of gas against Iraqi citizens as a threat to international peace and security, and as a reason why the terms of resolution 678 have not yet been discharged. Saddam has been deterred from using chemical weapons once; he may be deterred again. The Bush administration has twice warned Iraq not to use poison gas, and has drawn up operational plans for allied air strikes against any units deploying chemical weapons. That is enough. To commit American or allied troops to the conduct of an Arab civil war would presage disaster.

SEX, BIRTH AND VIRGINITY

Resonances echo from the words "virgin birth". Who, spotting the phrase in a headline, could resist reading the story underneath? Is it the religious parallel, a hint of the miraculous, that catches attention? Or could it be that women will always bear children, whereas through artificial insemination by donor (AID), one man could — if only in the narrowest sense — father thousands?

The relevance of virginity to AID is immaterial. If a woman wants to have a baby through AID, she is in no different a moral position be she a virgin or not. Nor, though this is more controversial, is her predicament different from that of a woman who knowingly has intercourse in order to become a single mother. Both want to bear and bring up a child without the presence of a father, and both may want to avoid the complications they feel may arise from sustained intimacy with a man.

Most people feel that to bring a child into the world knowing in advance that it is to be deprived of the presence of its father is wrong. Two-parent families are the norm, usually offering a child an experience of love and security that cannot be available from a single individual. But single-parent families are hardly a novel feature of the community. Single mothers, whether their singleness and their motherhood is deliberate or accidental, can be caring, responsible parents. No law can ban them and the state rightly regards them as meriting its protection and support.

The question in this case is the same as that which arose over the introduction of the Human Fertility and Embryology Act, passed last November. Should a charity — in this case, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service — be allowed actively to assist women who find themselves wanting a child without any contact with a man at all, and wanting it to the extent of taking drastic action? Should AID be made illegal for single women, be they virgins or not?

Ever since the stigma of illegitimacy began to lift two decades ago, more and more single women have been opting to have children on their own, often through AID. Women, especially from the middle classes, are tending to marry older. Those in their thirties sometimes despair of finding the right man with whom to form a proper relationship before their childbearing years are over. Many truly hope to find a stepfather later on, and many indeed do.

A woman in this difficult predicament may well find herself choosing between a casual partner, with risk to the health and the legal rights of both parties, and AID. As between these two choices, the latter can hardly be dismissed as the less careful or sensible one. Of course AID charities should counsel women carefully before they agree to provide the service.

Young women, who have every chance of forming a lasting relationship, should be screened out, as should women who clearly wish to become pregnant for the wrong reasons, such as moving up the housing ladder. But those who have thought long about how to become pregnant and who have opted for AID are likely to be no less conscientious and loving mothers than those who become pregnant by accident, possibly more so.

The community supports single mothers who have become pregnant by accident. Indeed it still places restrictions on women who seek to correct such accidents by abortion. Those who want to bring a child into the world unaided by a partner should certainly be warned of the burden they are incurring, and its implications for their child: hence the obligation of counselling. Even parenthood in marriage could benefit from such forethought. But to drive AID for single mothers underground would not serve the interests of such women, nor add to the emotional security of their children.

AT THE END OF A TUNNEL

Residents of Kent were brought reluctantly to terms with the Channel tunnel rail link by the offer of greatly improved services to London. They currently suffer from one of the worst commuter services in Europe. They were promised one of the best. British Rail wants those services improved not purely out of kindness to its customers, but to improve the capacity of Kent railways to enable them to carry the extra traffic using the tunnel. Without these improvements, ageing 1960s rolling stock will be cluttering up supposedly high-speed track, either slowing down the tunnel trains or overcrowding alternative capacity. This will make life worse for the commuters and for international travellers.

The difficulty is that nearly every penny of BR's current £5 billion five-year investment programme has been allocated. Money for the Kent coast improvements, costing a total of £1 billion, might be squeezed from the existing investment programme but only at the expense of some other planned project. This is unrealistic. BR has passed the buck to the government, not in the hope of a cash grant but for some relaxation of the restriction on its borrowing. Under the 1982 Transport Finance Act, there is a statutory limit of £1.1 billion on the amount British Rail can borrow. Over the next few years much of that credit line will be called upon to help finance the existing rail investment programme, leaving little or no room for the Kent coast project.

Unless the government is prepared to increase the borrowing ceiling, a measure which requires an act of Parliament, new Networker trains for Kent will not arrive until long after the Channel tunnel has opened. British Rail has already been given approval to proceed with half the project. From May 1992, the first of some 646 modern coaches will start replacing the current 1950s slam-door rolling stock on the inner commuter routes between London, Sevenoaks and Gillingham. But a further 200 coaches needed to cope with anticipated increases in demand are still awaiting approval from Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

The government has been right to insist that the Channel tunnel project and ancillary improvements should not be run at a loss. But that does not mean they must be financed within borrowing limits set when the tunnel was no more than a hole in the ground. Kent is a special case, and the proposed borrowing is not a subsidy but a robust commercial decision. Here again the Treasury is looking to its annual cash flow targets to the neglect of the long-term health of the nation's infrastructure. It would not matter how good BR's case is for investment: it cannot go to a bank and borrow. It is trapped in the old Whitehall catch-22: if too much has been lent to the NHS or too little raised from electricity privatisation, there is nothing left for trains. The Transport Finance Act is approaching its tenth anniversary. It will have to be amended.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Critical balance of goods and services

From the Chairman of the House of Lords select committee on science and technology

Sir, I read with dismay the final paragraph of your leading article, "Manufactured concern" (March 7). This committee's concern about the plight of UK manufacturing industry is based on the evidence we received during the 12 months of our enquiry and not, as you suggest, on our "romantic attachment to the supposed economic virility of manufacturing as against supposedly effete services".

The following figures, taken from the February *Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics*, support our concern:

Balance of Trade
(£million, current prices)

Year	Services	Manufactures
1980	3653	5428
1981	3792	4497
1982	3022	2094
1983	4064	-2733
1984	4519	-4527
1985	6687	-3765
1986	6696	-6125
1987	6628	-8112
1988	4504	-15100
1989	4698	-16822
1990	n/a	-10883

Of course we recognise and welcome the substantial contribution of services to the UK economy. A healthy economy does indeed supply both goods and services. But UK industry's inability to produce the goods that the customer wants to buy has resulted in the current balance of trade deficit.

Service industry should not be seen as a substitute for manufacturing because many services are dependent on manufacturing and only 20 per cent of services are tradeable overseas. Moreover, at no time since 1986 has the balance of trade in services been sufficient to compensate for the deficit in manufactured goods.

Yours faithfully,
FLOWERS, Chairman,
Select committee on science and technology,
House of Lords.
March 7.

From Dr Robert Whelan and Mr John Cheese

Sir, You describe the Lords select committee emphasis on manufacturing industry as a "manufactured concern". The key to national economic strength, surely, is value added in all sectors. Manufacturing's importance is that more of that value added is captured in this country for employees, companies and the exchequer alike.

One would be more relaxed about the decline of British manufacturing if our service sector was world-class. It is in some industries but certainly not in others. You use the example of computer hardware and software, but where is Britain's computer industry? Our only major manufacturer has gone to the Japanese and our software industry is in difficulty.

What we need is strength in both manufacturing and service sectors, because new opportunities for business come from a combination of the two. Look at the acquisition of film and music publishing rights by Japanese hi-fi manufacturers for example, or at the environmental market which offers multi-sector business opportunities requiring new configurations of companies built around collaborative arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. WHELAN
(Chief executive),
J. CHEESE
(Project leader),
Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology,
5 Berners Road, N1.
March 7.

From the Director General of the Engineering Employers' Federation

Sir, In attacking certain peripheral aspects of attitudes to manufacturing, you miss the main point. The UK has a very serious balance of payments deficit. Unless there is a large increase in investment in UK manufacturing, the balance of payments is going to stop at an early stage any incipient recovery from the present recession.

I agree that it is stupid to argue over academic distinctions between "manufactured goods" and "services"; but it is a fact that most of our exports and imports are classified by the statisticians as "manufactures". In the last 20 years, manufactures have become more, not less important in our international trade.

In 1990, manufactured goods — including food, drink and tobacco products — made up some 69 per cent of the UK's total international trade (exports and imports), compared with 60 per cent in 1970. Services made up some 21 per cent of the total in 1990, compared with 28 per cent in 1970.

The importance of engineering products alone has now overtaken that of services — having risen from 25 per cent in 1970 to 35 per cent in 1990.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRIGHTON,
Director General,
Engineering Employers' Federation,
Broadway House,
Tothill Street, SW1.
March 11.

Traditional worship

From Mr T. K. Dibley

Sir, I read Anne Woodham's article, "Praise the Lord, and pass the plate" (Life and Times, March 4), with some misgiving for the fate of St Barnabas's original "ageing congregation of 20 on a good day".

We are not all young and charismatic. Some of us would like to go to church to worship God with dignity and reverence and to recharge our spiritual batteries in the traditional manner we learned as children, but we find it ever more difficult to do so.

May I plead that in each town at least one parish church should be encouraged to offer the traditional services of the Church of England and that its congregation, even if ageing, should be allowed to worship free from the fear of being "planted" by the neighbouring charismatics.

Let the clergy not be too governed by their attendance figures; they have a duty to the ageing as well as to the young and trendy.

Yours faithfully,
T. K. DIBLEY,
110 Middle Street, Deal, Kent.
March 4.

From Mrs Cheryl Wissmann

Sir, If baptism by total immersion is a cultic initiation rite, heaven help the founder of the Christian religion and his disciples. Where does this leave us?

Yours faithfully,
C. WISSMANN,
2 Elmwood,
Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.
March 8.

Ultimate cat-call?

From the Reverend S. J. Davies

Sir, The information (Diary, March 4) that Dr Carey's new enthronement cape will be fastened by the clasp first used by Archbishop Howley (1828-48) may serve as an ill-omened reminder that this primate suffered the indignity of having a dead cat thrown into his carriage as he drove in state from Lambeth.

It is not recorded whether this was regarded as "heretical" or "theologically erroneous" or "just" or "justifiable", but it demonstrated the unpopularity of this lordly last of the "prince-archbishops" of Canterbury, who opposed Catholic emancipation, relief for the Jews and the extension of popular education.

Let us hope that not even a red herring will be hurled at the 103rd Primate of All England-elect.

Yours obediently,
S. J. DAVIES,
Devon and Exeter Institution,
Cathedral Close,
Exeter, Devon.
March 5.

Bank appointments

From Mr Michael Graham

Sir, Sir Kit McMahon's appointment as chief executive of the Midland Bank in 1987 must have been the first time — at least for a very long time — that one of the Big Four had gone outside for its executive leadership. Now, only four years on, this has been repeated (report, March 6). Surely in an organisation of tens of thousands of employees it must be possible to grow one's own wood. Failure to do so can be a devastating blow to morale.

It is a fundamental that one of the new chief executive's priorities is to groom a successor. To fail to do this twice in so few years is inexcusable and makes it difficult to breed the esprit de corps so vital to a large bank.

When one adds to this the many expensive "experts" also recruited from outside the bank, the largest problem for Midland in the next few years will be to convince staff they can expect loyalty to return to a two-way street and that they do have career paths.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRAHAM,
144-146 New Bond Street, W1.
March 11.

Hooked on tobacco?

From Dr Robert Lefever

Sir, Professor Warburton (March 4) misunderstands the nature of addiction. He is correct in saying that nicotine is not a narcotic but, like amphetamine or cocaine, it is an addictive stimulant. Acetaldehyde, another constituent of cigarette smoke, is a powerful addictive sedative, as is alcohol. The fact that various substances are addictive, however, does not mean that all users are necessarily addicted.

Tolerance (needing higher doses to maintain the desired effect) and withdrawal symptoms (relieved by return to use of the substance) are as common with cigarettes as with other addictive substances but even these features do not determine addiction as such.

Addiction itself is characterised by recurrent relapse (the return to use after cessation or recourse to alternative mood-altering substances or behaviours) and by various addictive behaviours such as drug-seeking or drug-dependent behaviour. Preoccupation, craving, ritualisation, continuation despite damaging consequences, subterfuge and changes in relative values (preferentially selecting drug-using behaviour, environments and company) are all characteristics of addiction and are clearly seen in the addictive use of cigarettes.

When Jeremy Laurance (article, March 7), putting the case for the legalisation of nicotine sprays, argues that "the problem with nicotine lies with its usual method of administration — via a cigarette" he overlooks the serious possibility that, by affecting the release of neurotransmitters in the mood centre of the brain, severe nicotine addiction in susceptible individuals may act as a gateway to alcoholism and other addictions.

Addiction problems can not be resolved simply through changes in an already confused law. Too many other freedoms may be sacrificed in well-meaning attempts. Incidentally, far from being prohibitionist, I am a member of the advisory council to Forest, the Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco.

Sincerely,
ROBERT LEFEVER,
2a Pelham Street, SW7.
March 8.

Experts' analysis of fighting in Gulf

From Mr Ronald Higgins

Sir, Somewhat surprisingly, Field Marshal Sir John Stanier (March 8) appears to answer the critics of the military commentators on the Gulf war by pleading guilty. He first says that he asked if the Ministry of Defence had "any military or political (*sic*) objection", then that he had to be "properly briefed" and "carefully" observe the ministry's rules.

We readers and listeners, however, ask for an objective service of unprejudiced commentary. We expect ministers and MPs to trot out the government or the party line but not the putative "experts".

But, just in case the Field Marshal's ingenuousness should seem in doubt, he then tells us explicitly that the first of his aims in anything he said was "to do all that I could to encourage support for our armed forces and confidence in their ability to carry out their task".

As it happened, I too supported the armed forces (although not all of their orders). But if someone proudly tells me in effect that he was acting as their loyal propagandist while affecting to be an expert commentator I have to ask whether he understands the rights of the listener, the duties of a broadcaster or the elementary requirements of a free press in any democratic society that is not itself under direct attack.

Yours sincerely,
RONALD HIGGINS,
Little Reeve, Vowchurch, Hereford.

From Air Commodore A. Mackie

Sir, The other generals with whom I shared studio armchairs showed a brilliance of military analysis of the Gulf war matched only by their adherence to prophetic and patriotic principle of the kind set for himself by Field Marshal Sir John Stanier.

I was struck, however, by the similarities between what they had to say and the war commentaries in the quality press (including, of course, *The Times*) in editions immediately preceding their respective broadcasts. Whether the similarity is a tribute to the excellence of defence journalism or to the capacity of the good soldier to live off the land, as it were, will never be known; and perhaps that is just as well.

For my part, I was glad of the salve of dealing less with the elementary war-fighting matters that engaged my fellow generals, and more with the unheeded modalities of peace-building which secured the attention but not the motivation of the politicians.

Yours faithfully,
A. MACKIE (Vice-president),
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7.

Search for lasting Middle East peace

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, As James Baker arrives in Israel in pursuit of a lasting Middle East peace (report, March 12) it is important that the West should recognise and remember where its friends in this region lie. Sacrifices have been made in support of the freedom of two countries whose records of democracy and human rights are, to say the least, questionable.

We have been obliged to take as an ally another Arab state noted for its open support for international terrorism, and Jordan's king has shown that he is prepared to stoop to almost any depth to preserve his throne.

It would regrettably be futile to place top of the agenda the democratisation of Arabia. While Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait have taken some small steps along this path, to hope for the same with the likes of Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia is clearly utopian.

Top of the agenda, therefore, must be what is practically achievable and principally desirable: a peace treaty between Israel and her Arab neighbours, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, with a homeland for the Palestinians at its heart.

The overwhelming majority of Jordan's population is Palestinian, and it would be nothing but justice for them to achieve self-determination in that territory. But for Israel to be pressured, after the events of the past six months, to give up "land for peace" will be nothing but a travesty of justice.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.
March 12.

Saving our ships

From the President of the General Council of British Shipping

Sir, The run-up to the Budget has brought a spate of arguments about what should or should not be done to enhance the British merchant fleet (letters, March 8, etc.); how effective or otherwise were past measures; and where the national interest really lies. It has been a comprehensive debate and nobody is left with any doubts about what is at stake in the national strategic interest.

Following the unanimous conclusion of the joint government/industry working party, necessary regulatory changes are now being implemented. In addition, the proposed fiscal measures are: income tax and employers' national insurance contributions to be removed from shipping company costs, thus ensuring the training and employment of British seafarers; together with 100 per cent ship allowance, a key requirement to the rebuilding of the fleet. Nothing less than this package can work.

The recent early day motion supporting the British merchant fleet and such fiscal action by the government has gained 345 signatures from all parties.

Whether this island nation can afford to conduct its affairs without the benefit of a UK merchant fleet, manned with British seafarers, is not an academic question but goes to the heart of national policy.

We are at a crossroads. If the fleet goes, it goes for ever. No fourth arm of defence; no massive contribution to the balance of payments; no pool of maritime expertise in the country; and no support for the substantial earning power of the many maritime activities in the City of London, still the maritime centre of the world.

It strikes me as inconceivable that the government could ignore the advantages of a British merchant fleet.

Yours etc.,
JEFFREY STERLING, President,
General Council of British Shipping,
30-32 St Mary Axe, EC3.
March 12.

College absurdities

From Professor Emeritus Sir Geoffrey Elton, FBA

Sir, As usual, I find myself very much in agreement with Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, whose denunciation of the absurdities now encountered at American universities ("Devaluing the university", March 5) was almost too gentle and gentlemanly for the horror he was dealing with. But he is mistaken about the originator of "deconstruction".

Namier neither invented nor practised the thing, and it is rash to underwrite A. J. P. Taylor's impertinent remark about Namier taking the mind out of history. Dr O'Brien is, however, right in seeking the origins of the disease in this country: the whole caboodle of inspired nonsense was carefully laid out in *Alice in Wonderland*.

Of course, Lewis Carroll knew he was embroidering a joke; the solemn enemies of "hierarchies" and "elites" are not even aware (or are they?) that they are solely concerned to admire their own image in those muddied pools of the mind.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ELTON,
Clare College, Cambridge.
March 5.

Pace-setters on pay

From Mr John Stanley

Sir, Mr Bill Connor of Usdaw in his letter to you, "Pace-setters on pay" (March 7), seeks to flatter or perhaps simply mislead by his statement, "Usdaw has been instrumental in making gains for tens of thousands of shop workers at . . . Marks & Spencer".

For the record, Usdaw took and takes no part in any negotiations on pay with anyone at Marks & Spencer, nor has it been instrumental in any of the decisions we have taken.

Marks & Spencer intend to remain at the forefront of the retail industry for the pay and conditions we offer by dealing directly with our staff on all matters which concern them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STANLEY
(Divisional director),
Marks & Spencer,
Michael House,
Baker Street, W1.
March 7.

Educational circles

From Mr W. Gilbert Hartley

Sir, The "full circles" theory advanced by Mr John Davey (March 7) supports an ethical precept enunciated by Dr P. T. Freeman, headmaster of Peter Symonds' School, Winchester, from 1926 to 1956.

In his divinity lessons he would counsel us "never to run after a woman, a bus, or an educational theory; there will be another along in five minutes".

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT HARTLEY,
Dolphins,
33 Upper Belgrave Road,
Seaford,
Sussex.
March 8.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 12: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon John Major, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duchess of York today visited Wiltshire to meet families of servicemen presently involved in the Gulf.

Her Royal Highness visited Larkhill Garrison and RAF Upavon.

Miss Lucy Manners and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a gala performance of "The Corn is Green" at the Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London, SE10.

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

The Princess Royal this morning visited Newcastle upon Tyne and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear (Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, visited the Crown Court Victim/Witness Project at the Law Courts, the Quayside, Newcastle.

Afterwards The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, visited the Northern Counties School for the Deaf, Great North Road, Newcastle.

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

In the evening Her Royal Highness, Past Master, the Worshipful Company of Carmen, attended a Livery Banquet at the Mansion House, London and was received by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor (Sir Alexander Graham).

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 12: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded the Lady Margaret Colville as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 12: The Prince and Princess of Wales visited Manchester today and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

The Prince of Wales and The Princess of Wales, Patron, the Royal Anthropological Institute, visited the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, visited the Nia Centre, Moss Side to meet members of the local Business Leadership Team, representatives of the Business Support Group and the Community Trust Group.

His Royal Highness visited Norweb, Talbot Road for a meeting with Business Leaders.

Subsequently, the Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, met representatives of The Prince's Trust Volunteers and Moss Side and Hulme Community Development Trust.

Finally, His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, attended a meeting of young business leaders at Manchester Airport before joining a seminar for the launch of the North West Business Leadership Environment Action Group.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Guinness Trust, visited the Charity's Openshaw Housing Scheme, Manchester.

Subsequently Her Royal Highness, Patron, Guinness Trust, unveiled a Foundation Stone at the Smithfield Centre, Manchester.

Afterwards, The Princess of Wales, Patron, Guinness Trust and Patron, Turning Point, attended a lunch at National Westminster Bank plc, 55 King Street, Manchester.

Finally Her Royal Highness attended a recital and reception in aid of the Friends of the Halle Appeal, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, attended a reception and presentation on the Roof of Africa Expedition at the Officers' Mess, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

Major-General Sir Christopher Airy was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 12: The Duke of Kent this morning reopened HM Customs and Excise's Custom House, Gravesend and was received on arrival by The Countess Mountbatten of Burma (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Kent).

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon visited Wellcome Diagnostics, Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended the King's College Hospital's 150th Anniversary Concert and Supper at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the headquarters of the Yorkshire Post Newspapers Limited, Wellington Street, Leeds and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire (The Lord Ingrow).

Her Royal Highness, as Chancellor, this afternoon toured the Interdisciplinary Centre for Polymer Research at the University of Leeds.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 12: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited the offices of the Mental Health Foundation, 8 Hallam Street, London, W1.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, President of the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, later received Colonel R.N. Harris on retiring as Commandant of the Home and Brigadier M.W.H. Branch upon assuming this appointment.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Infantry, received Major General A. Makepeace-Warne, Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel P.N. Hinde upon assuming command of the 7th Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. G. Elcomb, Commanding Officer designate of the 2nd Battalion.

Luncheons

Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Sir Idris Pearce, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, entertained Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at luncheon yesterday at 12 Great George Street.

City and Guilds of London Institute
Mr H.M. Neal, Chairman of Council, and Honorary Officers of the City and Guilds of London Institute were hosts at a luncheon given yesterday at Butchers' Hall, London, EC1.

Diplomas of Fellowship of the City and Guilds of London Institute were presented to Sir Jack Zunz, Dr Kenneth Bett, Mr Brian Budd, Mr Philip Green, Dr Samir Klat, Dr Bela Lengyel, Mr Brian Manley, Mr Peter Moore, and Mr John Webb.

The City and Guilds Gold Medal for Craft Excellence was presented to Mr George Daniels, Past Master of the Clockmakers' Company, for watchmaking.

Among others present were the Master and Clerk of the Butchers' Company and Lord Chapple, of Hoxton, and Sir Alex Smith, Vice-Presidents of the Institute.

Miss Clutten's, Ladbroke Grove 1930-1940
The former pupils of Miss Clutten's 1930-1940 gave Miss Peggy Clutten a luncheon in Suffolk, on March 10. Mr and Mrs William Green were hosts and Mr Andrew Potter spoke on behalf of the guests and gave a toast.

The Lord's Taverners
Mr Ronald Gerard was host yesterday at a luncheon for the English Schools' Cricket Association at the Goring Hotel. Mr Robert Atkins, Minister for Sport, presented a cheque for £60,000 on behalf of the Lord's Taverners to Mr Hubert Doggart, President of ESCA. Also present were:

Mr Brian Aspital, Mr Donald Carr, Mr Tom Clarke, Mr Cyril Cooper, Mr Colin Cowdrey, Mr Leslie Crowther, Mr Raphael Djanogly, Mr Paul Hicks, Mr Geoff Jeal, Mr Roger Kemp, Mr Bernard Norgan, Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson and Captain Anthony Swainson, RN.

Dinners

Carmen's Company
The Princess Royal attended the annual livery dinner of the Carmen's Company held last night at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were present. Sir Robert Reid, Master, presided, assisted by Mr E.R. Britt and Mr K.E. Parry, Wardens. The Lord Mayor, Mr G.A. Long and Mr Roger Freeman, Minister of State for Transport also spoke.

Pipeline Industries Guild
Lord Crickhowell, Chairman of the National Rivers Authority, and Mr Peter Joslin, Chief Constable of Warwickshire, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Pipeline Industries Guild held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr R. Evans, president, presided and Mr R.C. Smith, chairman, also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology and Smallpeice Trust
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a joint lecture and dinner discussion of the foundation and the Smallpeice Trust held last night at the Royal Society. Baroness Platt of Writtle, Mr A. Cass, Mr Peter Wickens and Mr A.K. Gill also spoke. Among others present were:

Lady Butterworth, Baroness Brigstocke, Baroness Elles, Lord Kearton, Sir Alcon Copisarow, Sir Philip Foreman, Sir Ronald Halstead, Sir Alastair and Lady Pilkington, Mrs Elizabeth Jowett and Dr P T Warren.

Service dinner

Birmingham University Air Squadron
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken was the principal guest at the annual dinner of Birmingham University Air Squadron held last night at RAF Cosford. Squadron Leader J. R. Mann, commanding officer, presided. Air Vice-Marshal R.M. Austin, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant, RAF College Cranwell, and Professor Sir Michael Thompson, Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University, were among the other guests.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund

Sir George Blunden was elected Chairman of Council of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund on March 12, 1991, following the retirement of Sir David Innes Williams.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM HEINESEN

William Heinesen, Faroese novelist and poet, died in Tórshavn, Faeroe Islands, yesterday aged 91. He was born on January 15, 1900.

THOUGH Faeroese, William Heinesen chose, like his great contemporary Jørgen-Frantz Jacobsen (who died in 1938 and put the Faeroes on the literary map with his novel *Barbara*, published after his death), to write all his works in Danish. Thus, though they powerfully evoke the ethos of the Faeroes, his novels essentially inhabit the European literary and cultural tradition and do not rely on a knowledge of locality from the reader to be appreciated.

The literary and philosophical influences on Heinesen were varied, and ranged from the relatively predictable Hans Kirk and Knut Hamsun, through Marx, to an English writer such as R. L. Stevenson. Certainly Marx was an early influence, and led him to his first novel, *Blaesende Gry*, a "collective" work in the manner of Kirk's *Fiskerne*, which had appeared in 1928. Heinesen's later works continued to show this preoccupation with society as a collective unit — it could, perhaps, hardly be otherwise in such a mutually supporting community as that of a Faeroese village. Greed, hypocrisy and narrow religious intolerance remained targets for withering scorn, even in a view of life mellowing as years went by to what Heinesen once described as "militant humanism".

William Heinesen was born in Tórshavn. His father was a merchant and Danish was spoken in the home. At 16 he was sent him to commercial school in Copenhagen. But commerce had no interest for him and he was soon expelled for taking no interest in his studies. In Copenhagen he mixed with writers, artists and intellectuals and also worked as a journalist on a local paper.

He first made his reputation in Denmark as a lyric poet, publishing his first volume of verse in 1921. It was not until ten years later that he turned in earnest to the prose which was to make his international reputation. *Blaesende Gry* ("Windswept Dawn"), which portrayed a quiet, self-effacing girl who loyally follows her husband into a life-denying sect she loathes, retains much passionate lyricism alongside its politically "collective" qualities which view society as a necessary unit, not as a group of disparate individuals. It was not translated into English, but *Niels Peter*, a bleak tale of survival and individual responsibility to the community in a bleak, coastal Faeroese valley, was, in 1939. Further books, based on Tórshavn, were published in English as *The Lost Musicians* (1971) and *The Kingdom of the Earth* (1974). In *Den sorte Gryde* ("The Black Pot") Heinesen provided an unsparing portrait of speculation, violence and intrigue in the Faeroes under British wartime occupation.

For 40 years on and off, he was writing his major work, *Det gode Håb* ("The Good Hope"), an historical novel based on the Faroes in the seventeenth century. It is written in the style of the Danish of 1670. This work, which appeared in 1964, brought him a share in the Nordic Council's 1965 literary award. Heinesen became one of the grand old men of Scandinavian literature. It is fitting that he lived to see seven of his books published in Faroese, the language he honoured, but in which he did not write. Many contend that had he done so, like his Faeroese contemporary, Hedin Brú (who died in 1987), he might have been an even better author.

Heinesen was also a gifted composer and painter. He played the piano and violin and composed many works including a musical drama for choir and orchestra. More important is his work as an artist. In his youth, Heinesen worked with oil and watercolours on huge canvases and his paintings of scenes of the majestic natural drama of the Faeroe Islands are to be found in many Nordic museums. In later years, he worked on smaller scale lino-cuts and paper collages depicting giants, trolls, and other fantastic creatures, evoking the fables of Faeroese mythology.

Heinesen is survived by his wife, Elise Susanne, and three sons.

HERBERT STRICKLAND

Herbert Strickland, acting director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's plant pathology laboratory at Harpenden, 1975-1981, died on February 18 aged 69. He was born at Hastings on March 23, 1923.

HERBERT Strickland made distinguished contributions to every field in which he worked, but became especially well known for his studies on the assessment of insect damage to crops. He was appointed to the plant pathology laboratory in 1950 to devise and develop methods for doing this work and to coordinate surveys of the incidence and degree of damage in England and Wales. A related responsibility was to assist in editing a new journal, *Plant Pathology*, intended primarily to publish the results of research on pest and disease assessment. An outline of the background to this work was given by the late George Ordish in his book *Untaken Harvest* which was under gestation in 1950. Ordish and Strickland observed the subject from different points of view but their approach had much in common. Essentially, they wished to escape from the usual custom of expressing losses in purely financial terms which can quickly become meaningless for the reasons given in *Untaken Harvest*. The convention initiated by Ordish and used by Strickland was to describe losses as "consolidated acreage equivalents", a notion which, broadly, assesses the area of land required to compensate for the proportion of crops lost through damage. When, through Ordish's generosity, the Royal Society of Arts established the John Curtis Memorial Lecture, Strickland was invited to be the first lecturer.

The decade in which he was appointed saw the early rumblings of public disquiet over the human and environmental hazards resulting from the increasing use of organochlorine and organophosphorus insecticides. Strickland, in common with many other biologists, had foreseen that there were also related problems potentially inimical to agriculture. He adapted readily, therefore, to the extension of his duties to include surveys of pesticide usage. His contribution to the *Review of the Persistent Organochlorine Pesticides* (HMSO 1964 — the Cook Report) resulted from this work, in which he was keen to provide a quantitative basis for decisions that might otherwise have been dependent on guesstimates.

Strickland gradnated in natural sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1942. He joined the army but was taken out shortly afterwards to become part of an advisory team in the Cambridge School of Agriculture. In 1944, he went to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad and became an associate. He then joined the West African Cocoa Research Institute as an entomologist to study the mealybug vector of swollen shoot disease which was threatening the cocoa crop. He elucidated the relationship between the mealybug and its attendant ant species. This was meticulous and elegant work that marked him as eminently suitable for his post at the plant pathology laboratory where in 1968 he became head of the entomology department. He was acting director of the laboratory from 1975 until his retirement in 1981.

These later phases of his career brought him into touch with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) which he served as chairman for a period before his retirement. This was a time of financial difficulty and his special responsibility for directing the policy of the organisation and overseeing its administration required all his skill in meticulous preparation.

Strickland was a private, shy and modest but proud man, whose complex character was difficult to understand. He combined an element of abrasiveness with considerable kindness and generosity and the respect in which he was held was accompanied by much affection.

MOLLY BROWN

Molly Brown, ballet dancer, has died aged 74. She was born in August, 1916.

MOLLY Brown danced with the Vic Wells ballet throughout its first decade. The first work on the first programme by Ninette de Valois's new ballet company at the Old Vic on May 5, 1931, was *les Petits Riens*, to Mozart's music. It began with two little girls dressed as cupids drawing the curtains apart. One of them was Molly Brown, so she can be said literally to have raised the curtain on the history of what is now the Royal Ballet.

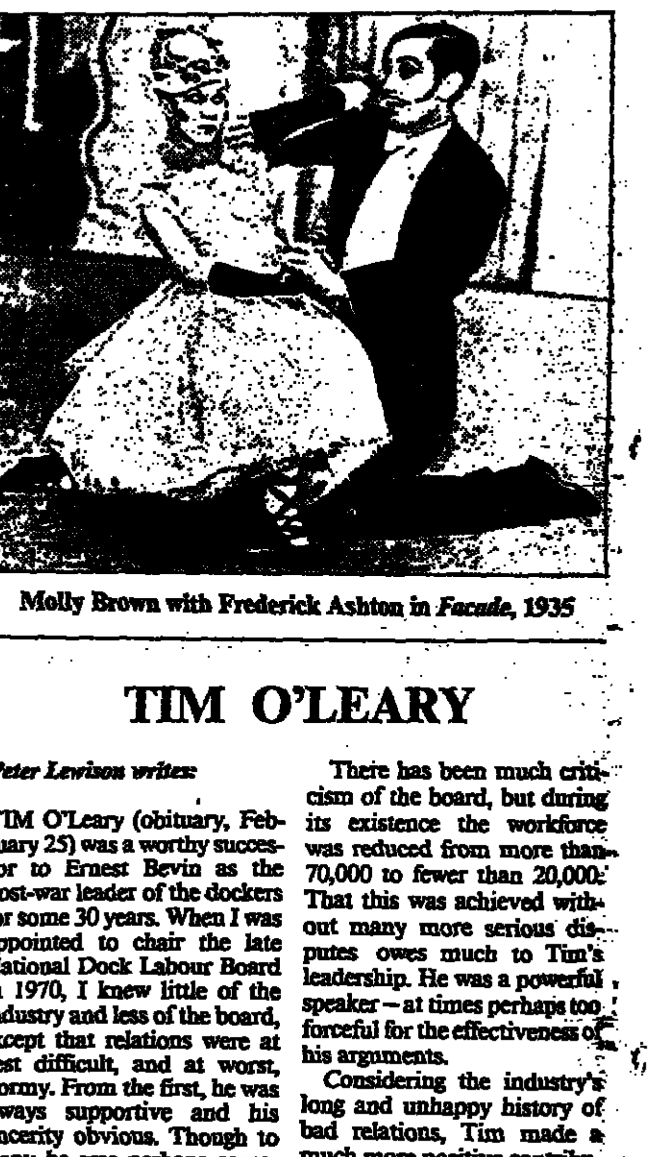
She did not become a leading dancer, although she was given some leading roles. But William Chappell, who was both a soloist and a designer for the company, remembers how she always made her presence felt on stage, thanks to a strong personality and a determination to be noticed.

Her most prominent role was as the Debutante when the Vic Wells Ballet first danced Frederick Ashton's *Facade* in 1935. She danced the tango with Ashton himself and she was coached by Lydia Lopokova, for whom the part had been made with the Camargo Society five years earlier. Molly Brown danced with Ashton again in the company's first performance of what was then billed as *The Sleeping Princess* (it became *The Sleeping Beauty* only when the company moved to Covent Garden). Ashton played Puss in Boots to her White Cat, and she revealed later that under cover of his animal mask he would repeatedly ask her "what comes next?"

She was the child heroine Clara in the company's first performance of *The Nutcracker*. Her other roles included Little Bo-Peep in *Nursery Suite* and she took over de Valois's own role of a peasant woman in *Barabau*. When Ashton added a *pas de quatre* to *Les Rendez-vous* in 1934, the occasion of his first choreography for Fontaine, Brown was another member of the quartet.

In those days the dancers had to appear also with the opera and drama companies. Brown relished the chance to work with artists from other disciplines, especially when the company was engaged for an opera season at Covent Garden supporting Lotte Lehmann and Lauritz Melchior among others, with Beecham conducting. She had a solo to the Flight of the Bumble Bee in the Sadlers Wells production of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Tsar Saltan*.

After the ballet company's narrow escape from capture by the Germans during a tour of Holland in 1940, Molly Brown decided to stop dancing. Within two years she married Hasan Balyuzi, a broadcaster and historian; they had five sons.



Molly Brown with Frederick Ashton in *Facade*, 1935

TIM O'LEARY

Peter Lewison writes:

TIM O'Leary (obituary, February 25) was a worthy successor to Ernest Bevin as the post-war leader of the dockers for some 30 years. When I was appointed to chair the late National Dock Labour Board in 1970, I knew little of the industry and less of the board, except that relations were at best difficult, and at worst, stormy. From the first, he was always supportive and his sincerity obvious. Though to many he was perhaps something of a "stormy petrel" this stemmed from his dedication to the interests of his members and — as he saw it — of the industry.

There has been much criticism of the board, but during its existence the workforce was reduced from more than 70,000 to fewer than 20,000. That this was achieved without many more serious disputes owes much to Tim's leadership. He was a powerful speaker — at times perhaps too forceful for the effectiveness of his arguments.

Considering the industry's long and unhappy history of bad relations, Tim made a much more positive contribution to the board's work and to the industry than might have been expected. He will be greatly missed by all associated with the dock industry.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the National Training Awards 1991, will attend the launch of this year's awards, at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, 10.30.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the British Lung Foundation, will visit British Telecom's London headquarters, Newgate Street, at 10.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend the National Olympic Committee meeting at 1 Wandsworth Plain, SW18, at 11.00; as Patron of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, will attend the launch of "Save Animals from Extinction" at the Natural History Museum at 2.30; and, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend a reception for commodores of RYA clubs and the annual meeting at the Inn on the Park Hotel at 3.45.

The Duchess of Kent will attend a concert given by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, at the RN College, Greenwich, at 7.10.

Princess Michael of Kent will attend a preview of the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home exhibition at Earls Court at 3.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Joseph Priestley, clergyman and scientist, Birstall, Yorkshire, 1733; Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, prime minister 1830-34; Fallodon, Northumberland, 1764; Thomas Henry Tizard, oceanographer and navigator, Weymouth, 1839.

DEATHS: Richard Burbage, actor, London, 1619; John Frederic Daniell, chemist, inventor of the electric cell, London, 1845; Alexander II, emperor of Russia 1855-81, assassinated, Leningrad, 1881; Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president of the USA 1889-93, Indianapolis, 1901; Stephen Vincent Benet, novelist and poet, New York, 1943; Angela Brazil, writer of girls' school stories, Coventry, 1947.

Horticulture

Warming to cool primulas

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ALPINE and rock-garden nurseries are the mainstay of the Royal Horticultural Society's early spring show, which opened yesterday, and they are featuring primulas.

Primula allionii, one of the most floriferous alpine-house kinds, is seen in all its shades of pink on the stands of Potterton and Martin, of Nettleton, Lincolnshire, which won a gold medal, and W. E. Th. Ingwersen, of Gravetye, West Sussex.

Ice-blue *Primula whitei* forms with fringed flowers are featured by Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Berwickshire, together with the new pure white *P. edgeworthii alba* from Nepal. Cool shady conditions are required by these primulas. Also being featured are the snowflakes *Leucojum vernum carpathicum* with yellow-tipped flowers, and the green-tipped *L.v. wagneri*. These need very damp conditions to succeed.

Pleiones, dwarf near-hardy orchids for the alpine house, are being shown by Butterfield's Nursery, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. As well as all the pink shades there is a range of new yellow hybrids, including the all-yellow *P.* Shantung 'Ducat' with crimson-spotted lip. There are several yellow-lipped Shantung varieties including 'Golden Plover' and 'Muriel Harberd', both with pale pink petals.

Miniature and larger bulbs are also prominent at this show. Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishop's Hull, Somerset, which won a gold medal, and J. Walker's Bulbs, of Weston Hills, Lincolnshire, are featuring new daffodils raised by Barbara Fry at Rosewarne experimental horticulture station in Cornwall. These include the miniature yellow 'Bob Minor' from Broadleigh, and from Walker's the miniature yellow 'Small Fry' and cream trumpet variety 'Millgreen'. All are noted for their disease resistance and early flowering.

Gold-medal winner Jacques Amand, of Stanmore, north London, is featuring the miniature *Narcissus bulbocodium* in its bulb display, hitherto scarce but available next year, with golden-yellow flowers and swept-back petals.

Among the tree and shrub exhibits is a gold-medal-winning display of seasonal plants from Burncoose and South Down Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall. Particularly noteworthy here is a pieris (evergreen woodland shrub) with unusually large bell-shaped white flowers called 'Temple Bell'. There is a large display of camellias from James Trehane and Son, of Hampreston, Dorset. Scented varieties are featured, such as 'Scentuous' with semi-double, white, pink-flushed flowers, and the semi-double 'Spring Mist' with miniature blush-pink blooms. Both should be grown in a cool conservatory.

This is the start of the season for herbaceous-plant nurseries and the show includes Goldbrook Plants, of Hoxne, Suffolk, featuring a new miniature purple-leaved bergenia called 'Wintermarchen'; and Donington Plants, of Wrangle, Lincolnshire, with a large display of double primroses.

Cold weather has resulted in much reduced entries for the RHS competitions. In the early daffodil competition Lady Skelmersdale, of Broadleigh Gardens, Bishop's Hull, Somerset, has won the class for six varieties with a collection of miniatures which includes the fragrant multi-headed 'Jumblie' and 'Quince'.

The Duke of Devonshire, of Chatsworth, Derbyshire, is a leading prizewinner in the early camellia competition. He is showing the beautiful blush-pink semi-double variety 'Easter Morn' in several classes.

Swansea City Council is a principal prizewinner in the early rhododendron competition and has won the class for four species. The exhibit includes *R. macabeanum* with large heads of light yellow flowers. Borde Hill Garden, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, has gained a first prize in two classes with a pure white form of *R. dauricum*.

The show, sponsored by Witan Investment Company, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10 am to 5 pm.

Birthdays today

Miss Valerie Amos, chief executive, Equal Opportunities Commission, 37; Mr Walter Annenberg, the American diplomat, 83; Sir Raymond Bell, former vice-president, European Investment Bank, 75; Sir Gordon Borrie, QC, Director-General of Fair Trading, 60.

Mr Terence Brady, playwright, novelist and actor, 52; Professor C.O. Brink, classicist, 84; Sir Terence Burns, economist, 47; Lord Butterworth, 73; Mr Michael Checkland, director-general, BBC, 55; Miss Lesley Collier, ballerina, 44; Mr Myles Formby, otolaryngologist, 90; Sir Gilbert Inglefield, former Lord Mayor of London, 82; Sir Robert Mark, former commissioner, the Metropolitan Police, 74; Lady Audrey Morris, 81; Air Commodore Helen Renton, former director, WRAF, 60; Mr Neil Sedaka, singer and composer, 52; Mr Jim Slater, former chairman, Slater Walker Securities, 62; Sir Reo Stakis, hotelier, 78; Major-General D.A.L. Wade, 93.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.T. Coke
and Miss C.M. Bland
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Major and Mrs Richard Coke, of Weasenham Hall, King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Catie, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon and Lady Bland, of Gabriels Manor, Edenbridge, Kent.

Mr P.Z. Fremantle
and Miss J.P. Hunwicke
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr Adam Fremantle, of New York, and of Christine, Princess Sapieha, of London, and Jane, daughter of the Revd John and Mrs Hunwicke, of Hoe Court House, Lancing, Sussex.

Mr T.D. Gourlay
and Mrs P.A. Doble
The engagement is announced between Timothy Gourlay and Priscilla Doble, both of Limpsfield, Surrey.

Mr A.G. Hay
and Miss L.N. King
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs George Hay, of Wykeham House, Spalding, Lincolnshire, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mrs S. Broughton, of Stockton Heath, Cheshire, and Mr S.R. King, of Manila, Philippines.

Mr G.C.H. Lomas
and Miss G.E. Meekison
The engagement is announced between Gregory, only son of Mr and Mrs P. Lomas, of Repulse Bay, Hong Kong, and Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.E. Meekison, of Dundee.

Mr W.B. Marsden-Smedley
and Miss A.G.B. Kirkland
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Marsden-Smedley, of The Glebe House, Bayton, near Kidderminster, Worcestershire, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kirkland, of Lochbie, Duddenhoe End, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr J.M. Rowland
and Miss J.C. Howl
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Rowland, of Eastbury, Berkshire, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Howl, of Finchfield, Wolverhampton.

Mr A.Q.P.H. Williams
and Miss S.R.M. Postlethwaite
The engagement is announced between Alexander, youngest son of Mrs Corinne Williams, The Orchards, South Gorley, Hampshire, and Mr Michael Williams, of London, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Postlethwaite, of Chelsea, London.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr G. Ashton to succeed Mr R. W. W. Dawe as Master of Westminster Under School, from August 1992.

Mr Nicholas Edgar, of University College, to be President of the Oxford Union Society for Michaelmas term.

Sir Hugh Bidwell to succeed the Earl of Limerick as non-executive Chairman of British Invisibles (formerly the British Invisible Exports Council), from April 8.

Air Vice-Marshal Ronald Ashford to succeed Major-General John Carpenter, who retires in June, as Senior Traffic Commissioner, Department of Transport. He will also assume responsibility for the western traffic area. **Brigadier Michael Turner** to be commissioner for the new south eastern and metropolitan traffic area.

Legal

Mr Patrick William O'Brien to be a circuit judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Ms Rhiannon Chapman and Mr John Crosby to be employer members of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

[illegible]

A terrible day is coming: no other day can compare with it - a time of distress for my people but they will survive. Jeremiah 30 : 7 G.N.B

BIRTHS

BAZLEY - On March 7th 1991, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Stella (née Wilson) and Rupert, a daughter, Sophie Emma.

BOTTOMLEY - On March 4th 1991, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Julia (née Matheson) and Keith, a daughter Charlotte Elizabeth.

BRAMLEY - On March 11th, to Julie (née Ault) and Ian, a daughter, Phillipa Megan Rose, a sister for Harriet.

CAMERON - On March 7th, at The Portland Hospital, to Juliet (née May) and James, a daughter, Ella Mary May.

CHETWYND-COWIESON - On March 11th, to Frances and Keith, a daughter, Rachel Dorothea.

EDMEADES - On March 8th 1991 at The Portland Hospital, to Debbie (née Harman) and Hugh, a son (Wilf Anthony Charles), a brother for Harry and Emma.

EGAR - On March 8th 1991, to Caroline and Mark, a son, Charles Samuel Hillyer, a brother for Sophie.

GRAY - On March 11th 1991, at Toronto, to Debbie (née Hagerman) and Malcolm, a son, Fraser James, a brother for Katelyn.

HALL - On March 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to June and Greg, a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth.

HAWKER - On March 8th 1991, at The West Dorset Hospital, to Louisa and Dickon, a daughter, Constance Rose Knollys.

KENNEDY-COCHRAN-PATRICK - On March 8th at 9.50 pm at The Portland Hospital London, to Richard and Charlotte, an 8lb son - Rollo Carr Hamilton, a brother to Dudley and Dougal.

LANDAU - On February 15th 1991, at The Portland Hospital, to Raquel and Stuart of Whetstone, London, N20, a wonderful son, Dean Adam.

LEONE - On March 8th, at The Portland Hospital, to Roberto and Shirin, a son, Cosimo.

LEVER - On March 2nd, to Anne (née Bellingall) and Bernard, a daughter, Isabel Elizabeth Rose, a sister for Helen.

MARTIN - On March 8th 1991, to Alison (née Small) and Richard, a son, Samuel Jacob.

PENNEY - On March 11th, to Diana (née Langridge) and Nicholas, a son, Matthew Nicholas.

PILKINGTON - On Saturday March 9th, at St Thomas' Hospital London, to Caroline (née Talbot-Ponsonby) and Patrick, a son, Hubert Edward.

READ - On March 11th, to Miranda (née Snow) and Jeremy, a son, Felix Nicholas Gregory, a brother for Olivia-Rose.

REISS - On March 9th, to Brenda (née Oldham) and Ronald, a daughter, Rosemary Joan.

ROYCROFT - On March 7th, to Michele (née Moscardini) and Jeremy, a son, Alexander Anthony Francis, a brother for Emilia.

SAMUEL - On March 3rd, at The Portland Hospital, to Stephanie (née Sassienl) and Clifford, a son, Jeremy Alexander.

SHAW - On March 12th, in Auckland, New Zealand, to Kate and Simon Shaw, a son, Benjamin Patrick.

THOMAS - On February 27th, to Angela (née Stephenson) and Maxwell, a son, Alexander James.

WADSWORTH - On March 11th, to Sophia (née Leslie) and Andrew, a daughter, Georgina Charlotte Louise, a sister for Edward.

WATSON - On March 4th 1991, in Hong Kong, to Tessaly Kit-Ling (née Stonham) and Jonathan, a beautiful daughter, Lucie Charlotte.

WEATHERALL - On March 11th, to Clara and Percy, a daughter Stella Nony.

WHISTLER - On February 20th, to Alison (née Roberts) and Christopher, a daughter, Clare Emily Ann, a sister for James.

WOOD - On March 8th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Martine and Nicholas, a daughter, Georgina Valentine.

WREY - On March 11th, at St Thomas', to Caroline and George, a son.

MARRIAGES

BEAL:FRANK - On February 23rd 1991, at St John's, Brooklands, Gary Allen, third son of Rev. & Mrs J. Beal, of Clovis, New Mexico, to Nicola Willis, daughter of Dr. & Mrs P.L. Frank, of Cheshire.

ROSTRON:CHANDLER - The marriage took place on Monday March 11th in Nassau, of Simon Rostron, only son of Mrs C V Rostron and Beverly Chandler, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L Dyson. The marriage was conducted by the Registrar General of the Bahamas.

DEATHS

ALBUTT - On March 11th 1991. Ada Madeline. Beloved wife of the late George, mother of Michael. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Tuesday March 19th at 12.45 pm, followed by a reception at Northwood Golf Club to which all her friends are invited. Flowers to, or donations if desired, The British Heart Foundation c/o T A Ellement & Son Ltd., 21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex. HA5 3HR.

AL-GHAZZI - On March 8th 1991. Abdul-Amir Mizher Al-Ghazzi, dearly loved brother of Hamid and Kadhim Hussain Al-Ghazzi, after a short illness. Mr Hamid Hussain Al-Ghazzi will receive visitors at 128 Park Lane London W1 until Friday March 15th from 3 to 8 pm.

BENTLEY - On March 8th 1991 peacefully, William Frederick Frere, late of The Wharf, Midhurst, dearly loved by all his family. Cremation to take place at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey, Monday March 18th at 2pm.

BISHOP - On March 11th, Kathleen Margaret, dearly loved wife of Evan and widow of Ronald Woodford, mother of John, Shirley and Peter and much loved grandmother, she will be sadly missed. Cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium Wednesday March 20th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

CHAMBERLAIN - On March 10th 1991, peacefully in hospital, Georgina Gordon, aged 85 mother of Elizabeth, Hugh and Alison and sister to Hugh Campbell. Funeral at Cambridge Crematorium, Huntingdon Road, on Thursday March 21st at 11.30 am.

COAKER - On March 12th, in hospital, Lt. Col. Gerard Arthur (Gerry) R.A. Rtd., husband of Deedy and father of Richard. Funeral Service St Mary's Priory Church, Old Malton, North Yorkshire, on Friday March 15th at 11.15 am. Private interment. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Leukaemia Research Fund, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1. No letters please.

CROSLING - On March 4th, Stephanie, dearly loved wife of Stuart Landen and mother of William and Henry. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday March 14th at 3 pm. No flowers please, but donations to Justice, 95a Chancery Lane, London WC2.

de LORIOL - On February 5th, in France, Claire, mother of Peter Gabriel and grandmama to Sophie. Private funeral has taken place. Memorial service to be announced. Donations if desired will be passed to Elizabeth Marks Trust Fund, Neo-natal Baby Unit, Lewisham.

DOWNEY - On March 11th 1991. Alice Clare, wife of Jim and mother of Clare and Stanley, peacefully at Ashford Hospital following a fall at home. Cremation at South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth, on March 19th at 11.30 am. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The National Osteoporosis Society.

DUFF-ASSHETON-SMITH - On Friday March 8th, peacefully in hospital, The Hon. Millicent Joan, Lady Duff-Assheton-Smith, daughter of the late Lord Tweedmouth, and sister of Moyra Freeman-Thomas. Funeral St Wilfrid's, 29 Tite Street, SW3, 10.30 am Tuesday March 19th. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, (071) 937-0757.

FERRIER - On March 3rd, peacefully at home with her family, Jacqueline, beloved wife of Cdr James Ferrier RN. Very much loved mother of Bay PJ and James Monro; mother-in-law of Stephen Shaw and of Nicolette, and grandmother. Sometime 3/O WRNS; widow of Surgeon Lieut Cameron Fraser HMS Neptune 1941, sister of Betty Baker and of the late Kenneth Lovekin, Dunkirk 1940. Dormiant in somno pacis. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research.

GILL - On March 9th, Gertrude H (Mrs Green) formerly with The G.P.D.S.T. aged 73. No relatives, cremation private. No letters or flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Edenhall, Marie Curie Centre, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, NW3 5NS.

GIFFORD - On March 11th 1991, peacefully in his sleep at home, Douglas John, much loved husband of Hazel and father of Malcolm, Frances, Roger and David. Funeral Service at St Andrews Episcopal Church, Queens Terrace, St Andrews, on Friday March 15th at 1.30 pm followed by private cremation at Perth at 4 pm. A Memorial Service is to be arranged. Donations if desired to Help the Aged.

GREEN - Mrs Gertrude H - see Gill

HADSHAR - On March 11th, peacefully at The Presbytery, Leatherhead, Father Albert, greatly loved uncle to Barbara, Martin, Lizzie, Nicky and Caroline and brother-in-law to Patricia. May he rest in peace amongst his family. Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady and St Peter's Catholic Church, Garlands Road, Leatherhead, at 11 am on Monday March 18th, followed by burial at Randalls Park Cemetery. Flowers to L. Hawkins & Sons, Leatherhead, or donations to Our Lady and St Peter's Catholic Church.

HART - On February 26th, at home on the island of Elba, Italy, Joseph George, CMG, OBE, aged 85. Greatly missed by his wife and family.

LOCKWOOD - On March 10th, suddenly, Arthur Ronald, of Moulsford, Oxfordshire, husband of Margaret and father of Carolyn, Andrew, Adrian and Mark. Private cremation on March 16th. Memorial Service at Moulsford Church at 2.30 pm on Tuesday March 26th. No flowers but donations may be sent to The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, 14 Abingdon Road, London W8 6AF.

MacNEILL - On March 11th 1991, in Jersey, Malcolm Alexander Campbell, aged 87 years, much loved husband of Mary, very special to his nieces and nephews and his many friends. Funeral private. No flowers please, by request.

MANNING - On March 6th 1991, following a tragic accident at home, Francis Gurney 'Fred' aged 40 years. Dearly loved husband of Vivienne father of Jason and Ruth, son of Richard and Elsie and brother of Richard and Elizabeth. Funeral Service to be held at All Saints Church, Feering, Essex, on Friday March 15th 1991 at 2.30 pm, followed by burial at Feering. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution c/o A. Birkin & Sons, Market End, Coggeshall, Essex.

MANSELL - On Mothering Sunday, March 10th, peacefully at Sutton Scotney, Margaret Bradbury (Madge), wife of the late Ralph and dearest mother of Peter (deceased), Bill and Pam and loving mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mary's Chapel, Chesil House, Winchester on Friday March 15th at 3.30 pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to International Fund for Animal Welfare.

MUNRO - On March 11th 1991, Ian Keith, peacefully at home after a long illness which he never allowed to come between him and his joie de vivre. Greatly missed by his family and many friends. Funeral Service St Julian's Church, Wellow, on Monday March 18th at 11.30 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to The Dorothy House Foundation, 164 Bloomfield Road, Bath.

POOLE - On March 9th 1991, suddenly at home, Terence James, aged 64 years, of Bovington Farm, Hatfield Peverel, Essex. Beloved husband of Betty and a dear father and grandad. Funeral Service will take place on Friday March 15th 1991 at The Sacred Heart, Roman Catholic Church, Southend-on-Sea at 2 pm, followed by interment at Sutton Road Cemetery at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to The Kidney Unit Appeal, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, c/o Bakers Funeral Service, 66b Newlands Street, Witham, Essex, CM8 1AH, tel. (0376) 500808.

POWELL - On Sunday March 10th 1991, suddenly but peacefully at home in Oxford, aged 84 years, Professor Herbert Marcus, the beloved husband of Primrose. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday March 19th in Hertford College Chapel at 11 am, followed by cremation at Oxford Crematorium. Flowers may be sent or, if preferred, donations for The British Heart Foundation to Reeves and Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4TE.

REGENT - On March 11th, Frank (Rege), aged 82. Dearly loved husband of Joan, father of Michael and June, grandfather of Andrew, Peter and Jason, and friend of all at Leygore. Funeral Service at All Saints, Turkdean, on Monday March 18th at 2 pm.

SALMONS - On Monday March 11th 1991, Brian Henry peacefully at St Cross Hospital, Rugby. Beloved husband of Margaret, much loved father of Darryl and Angela and grandfather of Lucy and Jojo, Marie and Jack. Funeral Service at St Marie's Church, Rugby, on March 14th 1991 at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations for 'British Heart Foundation' c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 38 Bilton Road, Rugby.

SCOTT-ROBINSON - On February 24th 1991, Donald E., Lt. Col. Retired of Robertsbridge.

SIZER - On March 10th 1991, David Vincent Holden, beloved husband of Audrey and father of Philip and Jennifer. Funeral Service at St Thomas Methodist Church, Exeter, on Thursday March 14th at 4 pm. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The British Diabetic Association.

SMART - On March 8th, suddenly at her home in Tetbury, Pamela (née Williams), beloved wife of the late Henry Smart, stepmother of Ian and Brian and sister of Vincent. Funeral at Gloucester Crematorium on Monday March 18th at 2 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to The Whittminster Animal Shelter, Gloucester GL2 7LU, or to The Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.

SUMNER SMITH - On March 10th 1991, at the home of her sister and brother-in-law at Exmouth, Joan, eldest daughter of the late Thomas and Minnie Sumner Smith of Manchester. All enquiries please telephone Richard Gegg, Exmouth Funeral Services, (0395) 268832.

VAUGHAN-PHILLIPS - On March 11th, peacefully in her sleep, Margaret, dearly loved wife of the late George Vaughan-Phillips and mother of Elizabeth. Funeral Friday March 15th at 3.30 pm at St Deiniol's Church, Itton, Chepstow, Gwent.

WHITTOME - On March 10th, peacefully at home surrounded by his family, Peter Eustace Franklin, darling husband of Janet and very special father of Anthony, Richard, Michael and Clare. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Eastbourne, on Monday March 18th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations will be gratefully received for The Care of Leukaemia Patients in Eastbourne to be sent to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne, Sussex.

WOODFORD - see Bishop.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BAZOFT - A Service of Remembrance for Farzad Bazoft, executed in Baghdad on March 15th 1990, will be held at St Brides Church, Fleet Street, at noon on Friday March 15th 1991.

BRUCE - The Thanksgiving Service for Beryl Bruce will take place at Chelsea Old Church, Cheyne Walk, London, on Wednesday March 20th 1991 at 12 noon.

JACKSON - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Professor Daphne Jackson, OBE, will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Wednesday April 24th 1991 at 2 pm. All are welcome.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

HOLDER - Matthew. Our gentle little boy. Is it really a whole-year sweetheart? Love Daddy, Mummy & Samuel.

MILLAR - Nicola Glen, remembering with love dearest Nicki died 15th March 1969

BOSNOW - Norman. In loving memory of a darling brother, who died on March 13th 1967, aged 23. Sadly missed by his sister Fiona, family and friends.

TOOTH - Melissa. Remembered with much love and affection by Simon and the children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JACKMAN - Pat, Agneta and Richard Jackman wish to sincerely thank everyone for their flowers and words of comfort after the sudden death of Brian, a much loved husband and father. Particular thanks to all friends and Brian's business colleagues for their donations to the fund which remains open until the end of March. 5 Skene House Court, Lyne of Skene, Aberdeenshire.

ROBINSON - The family of Clare Robinson of High Street, Prestwood, Great Missenden, wish to convey their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all who knew Clare, for their letters of condolence and messages of sympathy. Any donations should be sent c/o Lloyds Bank, High Street, Great Missenden Bucks and made out to 'The Clare Robinson Memorial Fund'. The aim of this fund is to encourage girls into Engineering and also students of Electrical Engineering at Leeds University to study abroad.

BIRTHDAYS

FAY Swindlehurst. Congratulations on your 18th birthday. Love always, Mum, Dad and Bridget.

WALLEY Congratulations Michael on your 18th birthday. Love Mum, Dad and Marc

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PUBLIC NOTICES

REVERTER OF SITES ACT 1987
EXTINGUISHMENT OF RIGHTS
NOTICE
ALL SAINTS SCHOOL,
BINFIELD

WHEREAS:-

1 By a Conveyance/Deed dated 9th August 1853 between George Henry Elliott, William Miller, William Alan Harrangham and James Randall the site (and buildings) of what became known as the Binfield All Saints School was granted to the Rector and Church Wardens as trustee pursuant to section 2 of the Schools Sites Act 1841.

2 The said school premises ceased to be used for the purposes of a voluntary school in July 1987 and pursuant to section 1 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 a trust for sale arises in respect of the said [illegible].

NOW TAKE NOTICE

1 The Diocese of Oxford have made application to the Secretary of State for Education and Science for [illegible] Order under [illegible] of the Education Act [illegible] the Order [illegible] the Foundation [illegible] benefit of [illegible] schools of the [illegible] within the [illegible] Order will [illegible] any benefit [illegible] for sale.

2 Any beneficiary who wishes to oppose the [illegible] rights should [illegible] writing to The Rector of Binfield, The Rectory, Terrace Road North, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 [illegible] later than 6th June 1991.

LEGAL NOTICES

CRAZY LARRY'S LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at [illegible] London W1 [illegible] on Thursday 21st March 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 [illegible]. A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 46 Conduit Street, London W1R 9FB between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the meeting of Creditors. Dated the [illegible] March 1991
N Rosen
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

ENVELOPES & DATA PRODUCTS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Palace Hotel, 31 Great Cumberland Place London W1 on Friday 15th March 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 99 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 46 Conduit Street, London W1R 9FB between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the meeting of Creditors.
Dated the 1st March 1991
M V Wilson
Director

AUTOFLEET OF LONDON LIMITED
I, Terence John Roper FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 5th February 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 8 March 1991
T J Roper FIPA
Liquidator

[illegible] Limited
We, Michael A Jordan and Robin M Addy of Cork Gully Shelley House, 3 Noble Street, London, EC2V 7DQ hereby give notice that on the 26 day of February 1991 we were appointed administrative receivers of the above named company by Lloyds Bank Plc under the terms of a debenture dated 29 March 1990 giving the holders a fixed and floating charge over the whole of the assets of the company.
M.A Jordan
R.M Addy
Joint Administrative Receivers

J.A. ELLIOTT (DEVELOPMENTS) LIMITED
Registered number: 667706. Nature of business: Dealers in land and buildings. Trade classification 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers 27th February 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Bankers Trust Company Inc. John Martin Iredale and Malcolm John London Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2104 and 2082) of Cork Gully Shelley House 3 Noble Street London EC2V 7DQ

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS CONVENED UNDER SECTION 98 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
HOLBEIN MOTOR COMPANY PLC
Principal Trading Address: 12 Ingate Place, Queenstown Road, London SW8 3NS
Company No 22319.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named company will be held as follows:-
Date 20 March 1991
Venue Great Eastern Hotel, London EC2P 2AN
Time 3.30 p.m.

The meeting is convened for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986, namely to consider the Directors' Statement of Affairs to appoint a Liquidator and to establish if thought fit, a Liquidation Committee.

A form of proxy is enclosed for voting purposes. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must (unless they are individual creditors attending in person) lodge their proxies at the offices of Touche Ross & Co, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars London EC3N 2NP by not later than 12 noon on 19 March 1991.

Mr R A Powdrill of Touche Ross & Co., Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars London EC3N 2NP will furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated 11 March 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
T Dodd-Noble
Director

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF THE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION LIMITED (IN RECEIVERSHIP AND LIQUIDATION)
On 28 February 1991 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. PS Padmore and PRC Dandson of Price Waterhouse, The Quay 30 Channel Way Ocean Village, Southampton, Hants SO1 1XF have been appointed liquidators.

Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.

Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Date 8 March 1991
PS Padmore
Joint Liquidator

Notice to Creditors
HCA HEALTHCARE SERVICES LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before April 15, 1991 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned the liquidator of the said company at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such claims are notified.
March 7 1991
D J Pallen
Liquidator
NOTE. This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and
IN THE MATTER OF WOODSIDE WINES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 22nd March 1991 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Jamie Taylor FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 18th day of February 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
JOHN TRAFFORD
DIRECTOR

IN THE MATTER OF DATUMFAST LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DAVID ALAN ROLPH of ST PAUL'S HOUSE, WARWICK LANE, LONDON, EC4P 4BN was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 24th January 1991.
Creditors are required on or before 19th April 1991 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the liquidator and if so required by notice in writing from the liquidator, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
DATED THIS Sixth Day of March 1991
DAVID A ROLPH
(Liquidator)

IN THE MATTER OF WPCL LIMITED
Trading As WORLD PRESS CENTRE
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Kevin Paul Barry, FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs Leonard Curtis & Co, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 6th March 1991.
DATED THIS 6TH DAY OF MARCH 1991
Kevin Paul Barry, FCA,
Liquidator
Leonard Curtis & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
P.O Box 553
30 Eastbourne Terrace
London W2 6LF

GEE PAGE ADVERTISING LIMITED
(Registered Number 1069016) Trading Name Gee Page Advertising Limited. Nature of Business: Advertising Agency. Trade Classification: 38. Date of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers: 1 March 1991. Name of Person Appointing the Joint Administrative Receivers Barclays Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers Ian Peter Phillips (2636) Edward John Wacey (6648) 84 Grosvenor Street London W1X 9DF
Dated 6 March 1991
IAN PETER PHILLIPS
The signatory is a Chartered Accountant

IN THE MATTER OF WPCL LIMITED
Trading As WORLD PRESS CENTRE
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before the 17th day of April 1991 to send in their full forenames and surnames their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned KEVIN PAUL BARRY FCA Leonard Curtis & Co. 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF the liquidator of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 6th day of March 1991
K P Barry
Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and
IN THE MATTER OF DISCOGOLD LTD
TRADING NAME:
Sydenham Precious Metals
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 10th April 1991 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 2.00 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 26th day of February 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
M H DAVIES
DIRECTOR

Notice of appointment of Liquidator
Name of company: HCA Healthcare Services Limited. Nature of business: Holding company. Address of registered office: Aldwych House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4JP. Liquidator's name and address: David John Pallen, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Date of appointment: November 19 1990. By whom appointed: Members.

QUANTUM PRODUCTS LIMITED
Registered number 2294084. Nature of business: Distribution and Marketing of Showers and Shower Accessories. Trade classification 27. Date of appointment of administrative receivers 18th February 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: HILL SAMUEL COMMERCIAL FINANCE LTD. JONATHAN JOSEPH SCHAPIRA & KEITH DAVID GOODMAN FCA Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 6784 and 3407) of 30 EASTBOURNE TERRACE, LONDON W2 6LF

RULE 4.106 THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF JOINT LIQUIDATORS
THE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION LIMITED
(IN RECEIVERSHIP)
We, PS Padmore and PRC Dandson of Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hants SO1 1XF give notice that on 28 February 1991 we were appointed joint liquidators of The Professional Connection Limited by resolutions of meetings of the company.
Date 8 March 1991
P S Padmore
Joint Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
J E LESSER & SONS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
LESSER LAND LIMITED
STORMKARN LIMITED
GROWTHTHEME LIMITED
LESSER COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
LESSER PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
LESSER HOMES (UK) LIMITED
LESSER BUILDING PRODUCTS LIMITED
LESSER BUILDING SYSTEMS LIMITED
SOUTHWOOD ESTATES LIMITED
LESSER HOMES LIMITED
THE CAUSEWAY
TEDDINGTON
MIDDLESEX TW11 0HW
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Holiday Inn, 3 Berkeley Street, London W1X 6NE on Friday 15th March 1991 at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on Wednesday 13th March and Thursday 14th March 1991.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account and an informal proof of debt and unless attending in person a proxy at Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF no later than 12 noon on Thursday 14th March 1991. Secured creditors must (unless they surrender their security) give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
6th March 1991
J S BENNETT
Director

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 0010756 of 1990

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUTTON DISTRICT WATER Plc AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 18th February 1991 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £354,436.00 to £37,756.20 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the aforementioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 22nd February 1991.

Dated this 13th day of March 1991

Beachcroft Stanleys, 20 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1BN
Solicitors for the above-named Company

MARCH 13

ON THIS DAY

1862

Spiritualism came to public notice in Britain about 1851. Contemporary with Forster was Daniel Dunglas Home who achieved fame with his séances, a number held in the presence of royalty.

A SITTING WITH MR. FORSTER

Although the future historian who writes about us 200 years hence will scarcely characterise this age as an age remarkable for credulity, it is pretty generally known that among the fancies of the fashionable world there is none more prevalent than a desire to hold intercourse with the spirits of the departed. A "medium" in good repute, who, for a certain fee, will enable us to discourse with our deceased grandfathers, may be regarded as a member of a profession at once lucrative and distinguished.

Just now, the leading "medium" is Mr. Forster, of Bryanston-street, Portman-square. He gives sittings (*séances* is the word) at the rate of one guinea a head, and is so fully occupied with his spiritual business that, without an appointment on the previous day, there is no chance of an interview. When you are lucky enough to get your hour, you certainly have your guinea's worth.

Mr. Forster gives you the right of search into the ghostly bosoms of all your deceased relatives and friends and if you question them about this little debt, that little legacy, and t'other little mortgage, they will answer you with a straightforwardness that perhaps was by no means characteristic of their earthly career. Many an old curmudgeon who would have told his next of kin "not to bother" if he had asked him a hundredth part of the questions propounded in Mr. Forster's room now overflows with information, and, distressfully rapping, hovers about his relative's chair, fearful that he may not be asked enough. "There is a spirit wants to speak with you," is one of Mr. Forster's most frequent remarks.

After several experiments, the air seems to become impregnated with spiritual influences. The lurches of the table increase, rappings go on at short intervals, and you are told that one of the spirits wants to speak with you. This is your time to put in your business-like questions, — to ask whether Smith will honour his acceptance without being stimulated by your solicitor, or whether Brown really died intestate. Sometimes Mr. Forster — possessed, of course, by the spirits — will himself answer these interrogations in writing, scribbling on the paper with preternatural rapidity, as if unable to control his movements. But generally a rap on the table is the response (one rap denoting "No", two raps "Doubtful", and three raps "Yes"); and the questioner may be advised to use such a form of inquiry as may be answered by a simple affirmative or negative, and to avoid the disjunctive form of interrogation.

The spirits, though communicative, are disposed to be laconic, and we need not remark that the seeker for advice who asks whether a certain case he ought to proceed by common law or equity, and is answered by plain "Yes" or "No" scarcely obtains the guidance he requires. To avoid disappointment, let him, therefore, ask, "Shall I issue a writ?" or, "Shall I file a bill?" (one or the other, not both together), and ten to one but he will find that the raps proceed from the most unquestionable worldly wisdom...

At these sittings, nothing is done with the view of inspiring terror. Mr. Forster is no lean, haggard seer, but a young gentleman of a frank and even jovial aspect, remarkably gentlemanlike and urbane in his manner, and not at all indisposed to laugh and joke in the midst of his spiritual manifestations. Now and then, he appears pained and exhausted through the work of "meditation", but mostly, if the party consists of gentlemen only, he smokes his cigar amid a volley of rappings, as a veteran might write his despatches with shells flying in at his windows.

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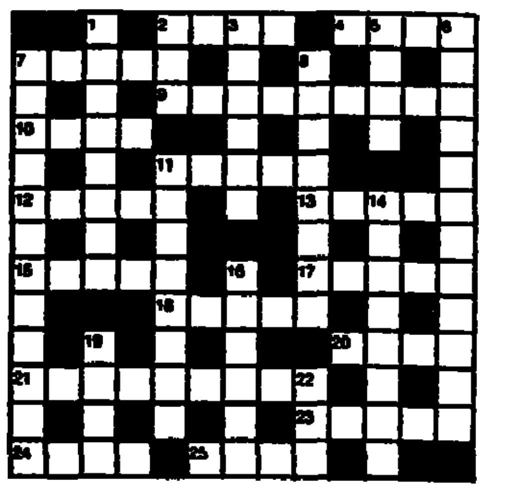

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- 18 Trivial (5)
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TED BATH

"Nobody goes into private gardening if they want money or status": Derek Wadsworth in the grounds of Bramdean House, in Hampshire, where he is the proud head gardener

Stay out of the garden, m'lord

Joanna Gibbon

discovers how the head gardener became a rare, and often disgruntled, creature

Derek Wadsworth works in surroundings that most people just dream about — an 18th century garden of lawns, terraces, 100-year-old yew hedges, a walled kitchen garden and old-fashioned roses, all of which he lovingly nurtures. As the head gardener of Bramdean House, in Hampshire, this is his kingdom.

Mr Wadsworth's career began more than 30 years ago in a private garden. He ventured into commercial horticulture and education, before returning to the private sector five years ago. "I get greater job satisfaction here: I can experiment and develop skills," he says. "I see the results of my work because only I have double-dug the soil, raised the plants and looked after them. Bramdean is visited by the public, and the garden is my reputation."

There is a shortage of professionally trained gardeners in Britain prepared to work at houses such as Bramdean. The Historic Houses Association (HHA) is so concerned that it has convened a conference today with the Royal Horticultural Society to discuss, and perhaps remedy, the dilemma.

Elizabeth Banks, a garden management adviser, blames the shortage partly on changing trends. "During the Sixties the country house looked as if it was about to disappear for ever: interest in the garden was at an all-time low," she says. The public's interest in visiting historic houses has been revitalised, however, and as owners realise the importance of an attractive garden, the demand for gardeners has risen. But suitable gardeners remain scarce. "They are either about to retire or are young, straight out of college, inexperienced and not keen to take on such work," Mrs Banks says.

The HHA has 13,000 members, all of whom own a historic house. A third of these, some well-known, are open to the public, while the rest are small manor houses, opened a few times a year for a charitable cause. "Huge properties are run like businesses and have fewer problems," Mrs Banks says. "They might employ six gardeners whose duties are clear-cut; proper pay and pension structures exist. But the smaller house is in difficulties."

In the past the head gardener at even a medium-sized country seat was all-powerful; the family might even ask permission before picking a bloom. In the staff hierarchy the head gardener was on the same level as the butler; he was expected to be able to organise any number of under-gardeners and to be talented enough to design and plant out new gardens and landscapes. Any interference in his domain was not appreciated: the owner might be allowed to dead-head the roses but there was no question of pruning. This gave rise to "her ladyship's garden", which was separate from the main garden and where the lady of the house could prune, weed and plant to her heart's content, occasionally inviting in one of the gardening staff to help her with the heavy work.

Because of his elevated position the head gardener could concentrate on the specialised areas, such as growing vines, peaches, peppers, pineapples, bananas and orchids under glass; propagating; ordering seeds and plants, and inventing secret new composts. Having worked his way up through the ranks, he in turn trained a battalion of under-gardeners for the future.

"The head gardener is somewhat displaced now," Mr Wadsworth says, rather wistfully. "Owners want to do more themselves, and some are quite knowledgeable; but sometimes they get garden consultants in. I call them 'insultants'." Mr Wadsworth has a horticulture degree, and is treasurer to the Professional Gardeners Guild. Other difficulties arise when owners are not clear about what they want, and do not understand the abilities of those they are employing.

A newly qualified graduate will not relish a diet of labouring jobs or pulling weeds, nor is he or she necessarily ready to be head gardener. "Colleges teach horticultural techniques, but not the philosophy of private gardening," Mr Wadsworth says. "For instance, a student will learn to propagate plants in ideal conditions, but in a private garden those facilities have to be created from whatever there is."

Attitude is another sticking point. Many owners behave as if their gardener were a serf. The younger generation is unlikely to fall in with any forelock tugging, and is not attracted by a job advertisement wanting the gardener's partner to clean in the big house. "Some owners issue orders in the wrong way; they need to be more approachable," Mrs Banks says. Mr Wadsworth forgives the snobbery and misunderstandings. "Those indoors live a very different life from us outside; they will never understand us and we will never understand them. I am one of the lucky ones because I am appreciated here, but the servant business still exists — I don't see it disappearing."

Salaries, sick pay, pensions and tied cottages all cause problems. Mrs Banks reckons a head gardener's salary might be between £12,000 and £14,000, his assistant's between £9,000 and £10,000, usually with free housing. It is a moot point whether such an amount allows someone to buy their own house and consolidate a pension, especially when Mr Wadsworth laughs at the estimates. "Pigs might fly," he says. "I don't earn that and most of us don't. Nobody goes into private gardening if they want money or status." He acknowledges the unfairness of being paid the equivalent of a farm labourer's rates for highly skilled work. "There are only a limited number of nutcases like me, I suppose."

The successful gardener at a historic house must be versatile. He or she will be a diplomat, prepared to do a full range of gardening, a good manager and communicator — talking to visitors is very much part of the scheme of things — and knowledgeable about garden history. Mrs Banks, who inherited Hergest Croft Gardens in Herefordshire two years ago, had difficulties with all six of her gardeners in the vegetable patch last summer. "I put out an edict that all courgettes were to be picked at 6in long and that if I found any large courgettes, I would cut them off. Courgettes are much tastier when they are small."

She kept her threat but was flabbergasted to discover that the gardeners had won every marrow prize at the local show. On enquiry the head gardener revealed that they had been grown behind the dung heap, away from prying eyes.

Mr Wadsworth recommends a specialised course for mature students who want a career change, possibly within horticulture, and who are more likely to have developed some of the qualities needed for gardening in a historic house. No such course exists in Britain, but Dr Bruce Rigby, the director of full-time studies at Askham Bryan College, which offers amenity horticulture courses near York, is keen to create one.

"A short course — perhaps divided into two sets of six weeks and geared to the gardening, rather than the academic, year — would be feasible if there was sufficient demand for it," Dr Rigby says.

Jim Marshall, a National Trust garden adviser who has been instrumental in promoting a foundation course in horticulture at GCSE level, warns of the consequences of no action: "After 1992 more British gardeners will be lured to Europe because, apart from the Dutch, they are the best." Gardening in a historic house has a unique interest value, he says. "Nowhere in the world can you get such a broad spectrum of gardens — medieval, Elizabethan, Georgian, Victorian and 20th century. Nothing can surpass that."

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&BRIEFLY

Advice on the line

FROM this month women requiring quick, confidential legal advice on domestic violence, sexual harassment, or the removal of their children (either in a custody dispute or by a local authority) can telephone a 24-hour helpline set up by a Birmingham firm of solicitors, Tyndallwoods & Millichip. Eight female lawyers are on call to provide advice that is, initially, free. If matters need to be pursued they will advise whether legal aid is available. The firm has links with the women's unit of Birmingham city council, and although its helpline does not offer counselling facilities, callers will be referred to other agencies if necessary. The number to call is 021-233 4700 (the call is not free).

Table wine

THE gadget-obsessed will probably be delighted to learn that the Wine Presenter is now available for home entertaining. Developed by a London restaurateur, Rebecca Mascarenhas (who runs Sonny's in south-west London), it works on a similar principle to those disconcerting baby-seats which clip on to the edges of tables, and consists of a sleek steel holder cantilevered to attach to the side of almost any table, safely out of elbow range. The weight of the accompanying bucket, plus ice and bottle, is said to ensure that it stays put. Sonny's Food Shop, 92 Church Road, London SW13, has begun to market them at £55. Telephone 081-741 8451.

Bridging gaps

BRIDGE, the British Index and Database on Gender Equality, is an organisation offering "a national computerised database of researchers and trainers on projects relating to the advancement of women". Started just four months ago, Bridge intends to offer consultancy services to individuals and organisations, and links with other women's organisations such as the Centre for Research on European Women. Membership is £5 for the unwaged, £15 for employed individuals, £25 for voluntary organisations and £50 for other institutions. One-off use of the referral service is £10. Members have a monthly newsletter, and an as yet incomplete "media scan" of articles relating to women. For further information contact Sandra Uttley, Mill of Keir Cottage, Keir Estate, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 9NS (0786 823349).

Little feats

IKEA, the Swedish furniture chain with stores in north London, Warrington and Birmingham, has some smart ideas for those with infants and young children. There is a baby changing mat that converts to a sturdy carrycot for £24, and an attractive travel cot in bright red, yellow and blue that folds up into a neat travel bag with room for bedlinen (£49). For keeping cupboards, doors and windows safe there are locks, catches and safety brackets. And why spend a fortune on a plastic or wooden Wendy house, when children can have as much fun with a £10.50 cardboard model they can paint themselves?

Light thinker

THE slimline, notebook-sized Philips laptop computer usually costs about £1,000. But Dixons business centres are selling it now at £690 (£599 plus VAT). One of the few truly portable portable computers, it offers one megabyte of RAM and has a floppy disk drive using standard 3½in disks. The price includes Microsoft Works software. The only drawback is the somewhat wide, not very high screen, and a lack of backlighting. But it is so light that you could probably squeeze it and a Canon bubblejet printer (now £249 plus VAT) into your briefcase together, for a completely portable office.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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TATLER

Some entrancing evenings

Stage hypnotism can be mesmerising for the audience, but who controls the people who can control minds?

GERRY was bewildered and white with fatigue. How much this was due to drink, and how much to the deep state of hypnosis he had been in for 90 minutes, was difficult to tell. He had been teased quite badly by his teenaged friends, and he was not sure why. It was only when he was told the details of what he had done in his trance that he started to get angry.

The occasion was a double glazing company's annual party. Peter Powers, self-confessed "naughty" stage hypnotist, had been invited to provide the entertainment. Much drink had flowed before he started. Among his routines, Mr Powers made male volunteers experience the pain of childbirth. Their cries were disturbingly real. They all knew the sex of their child, except Gerry (not his real name). "What did you have?" Mr Powers asked. "An alien," Gerry replied, looking confused and upset.

The show's climax was the almost obligatory striptease, Mr Powers stopping the proceedings just before the point of no return.

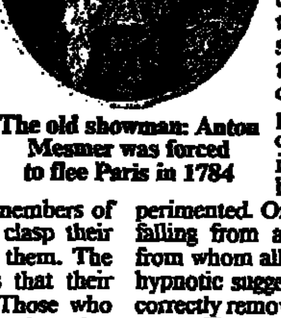
Had Mr Powers been operating in a public theatre, a set of Home Office guidelines and the Hypnotism Act of 1952 would have made much of his act illegal. In a number of countries — including some US states and Canada, as well as places as diverse as Israel and Brazil — he could have been arrested. They ban all stage hypnotism outright.

Hypnotism and show business have strong links. Dr Anton Mesmer, the Austrian who discovered the therapeutic powers of hypnotism, dressed in flowing cloaks and used soft violin music as part of the treatment. But in 1784, when Mesmer was working in Paris, a tribune in the city composed of Dr Joseph Guillotin, Benjamin Franklin (the statesman and scientist) and Antoine Lavoisier (discoverer of oxygen), condemned the practice of what was then called animal magnetism. Mesmer had to flee Paris as a result.

Paul McKenna, a Capital Radio DJ in his mid twenties and the only stage hypnotist currently licensed to perform on the London stage, will fill the 2,000-seater Dominion Theatre in London on Sunday nights this month.

All stage hypnotists depend for their craft on being able swiftly to spot good hypnotic subjects. Most start with the hand-clasp test. The audience, or selected members of it, are invited to clasp their hands in front of them. The hypnotist suggests that their hands are stuck. Those who have accepted that first tiny suggestion and cannot part their hands are invited on stage.

The hypnotist then deepens the subjects' trance and suggestibility. They will sleep, cuddling up affectionately to each other, pretend to be Elvis, or get drunk on thin air. Poor subjects will be rejected — swiftly and with the minimum of fuss, so as not to put the hypnotists off the good subjects. The best subjects unwittingly become comic stars.



The old showman: Anton Mesmer was forced to flee Paris in 1784

The hypnotists recognise the risks in what they do and try to minimise them. Mr McKenna, for example, must pay for the presence of two members of Westminster Council's licensing department to watch every show he does in London. He also has discreet minders in the bar in the interval, where subjects unconsciously play the role of film director, snooty bitch, and frustrated gym mistress, apparently unsupervised.

Medical texts on hypnotism generally recount case histories linking stage hypnotism with medical and physical problems. Two children, having seen a stage hypnotist, experimented. One was injured, falling from a wall. A man from whom all traces of post-hypnotic suggestion were not correctly removed went into a post office the day after the show, asking for a licence for his pet leprechaun.

Laws governing stage hypnotism are inconsistent. A performer on a public stage is bound by an act of parliament and Home Office guidelines. No subject should be aged under 18, nobody should suffer regression (reversion to specific childhood ages), all hypnotic suggestions should be removed at the end of the show. But the same performer can do a late-night show in a private club without rules.

Stage hypnotists have tried to police their own profession by setting up federations and associations. But the "naughty" hypnotists working the clubs do not always toe the line. And there is rivalry between performers. The three I watched and interviewed in the course of recording *You Are Feeling Sleepy* (to be broadcast on Radio Four tomorrow at 7.20pm) all had tales about hypnotists stealing others' routines.

Hypnotherapists are outraged by the showmen's promise of therapeutic benefits such as relaxation, or a cure for smoking, through the sale of cassettes after the show. They say their work is being brought into disrepute. However, anyone can practise as a hypnotherapist without supervision or qualifications.

This, in turn, worries the medical hypnotists working in psychotherapy and anaesthesia. They oppose any form of hypnotism by unqualified people, on stage or off. Dr David Waxman, one of the best-known users of hypnosis in psychotherapy, argues that only those professionally qualified to take a full medical history should be allowed to hypnotise. But even the medical experts disagree on whether hypnotised people can be persuaded to do acts which genuinely offend their conscious standards. The dangers of serious damage at the hands of a stage hypnotist are probably as slim as those run on a roller coaster ride. Most performers issue health warnings — they don't want you to volunteer if you are taking medication, under 18 or feeling depressed. There is no question that the shows are fascinating, and the freedom to humiliate one's self is a human right. Isn't it?

NICK BAKER

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ROCK

The boyo from Los Angeles

After 25 years, singer Tom Jones still has sex-appeal, integrity and street-credibility, as he explains to David Sinclair

STEPHEN MARKESON

Tom Jones: the face is tanned, the hair is going grey at the temples and the nose and teeth are surgically adjusted to an eerie perfection

Everybody wants a piece of Tom Jones, and in an ideal world he would gladly oblige. He recalls one of his frequent trips to his native Pontypridd, before Christmas in 1988. "I was going round some pubs in my old neighbourhood, and girls were coming up for my autograph and raving about 'Kiss', which was in the chart, telling me that I was doing it better than Prince. But the fellas that I was in the pub with, people that I went to school with, were saying [he adopts croaky Welsh accent]: ' "Kiss" is alright, but "The Boy From Nowhere", that's you, that's where you are.' There's two completely different groups that both, thank God, like what I do."

The story is revealing, not only of how Jones would like to see himself – all things to all people – but of the social habits of this extraordinary 50-year-old. How many stars of his magnitude have been married for 33 years, have transplanted their entire family to the promised land (mother, sister, son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren all live near him in Los Angeles), and still go out drinking with old school chums?

An anecdote which Jonathan Ross tells on a forthcoming BBC TV *Omnibus* film concerns Jones and his 33-year-old son (and manager) Mark. Held up one morning at an airport on their way home to LA this pair of jet-setters, eschewing the executive lounge, elected to sit at the bar, where they drank eight pints of bitter each before boarding the plane.

In the popular imagination he is probably the brawny, barrel-chested son of the mining valleys; but in the flesh Jones is not as big as might be expected. He is of medium height, and the waist and hips are slim. The face is tanned, and while the casually groomed hair is going grey at the temples ("I stopped rinsing it a couple of years ago"), the nose and teeth are surgically adjusted to an eerie perfection.

As for that other popular image of Jones – as Medallion Man incarnate, a stud fantasy figure for the blue-rinse brigade – he indicates that this has become something of an embarrassment to him in recent years. He wears no visible jewellery. "People get the idea that Tom Jones comes on in a bow-tie and tuxedo and then it's a strip show. People have zeroed in on that macho part of it: hairy chest, gold chains, gold rings, that kind of thing. I like jewellery, but you can become, not knowingly, ostentatious wearing diamond rings in the daytime. You start to notice people looking at you in a certain way. I'm now trying to avoid all that."

The image of Medallion Man incarnate has become an embarrassment to him

This change of sartorial direction has been encouraged by his son Mark Woodward, who took over as Jones's manager in 1986, following the death of Gordon Mills. It was Mills, an impresario of the old school, who discovered Jones singing with an R 'n' B band in the clubs of the Welsh valleys and gave him stardom with a string of big-voiced hits including "It's Not Unusual" and "Delilah".

But Mills whisked Jones off to the golden limbo of an extended Las Vegas residency as early as 1968, long before his career had had time to flower properly. The move led to an artistic cul-de-sac. Although Jones remained an immensely well-paid performer, his American record company pigeonholed him as a country act, and he had no hits from 1977 to 1987.

Then in 1988 he teamed up with the keyboard conceptualist duo, the Art of Noise, to record "Kiss". That not only introduced Jones to a new generation of record buyers, but gave his credibility in the business a much-needed boost.

"Until 'Kiss' my recording career was all over the place," he cheerfully admits. "It's a cheeky song. The way Prince does it, it's very camp. Falsetto, very sparse arrangement. But it is really a rhythm and blues song. And when I did it I treated it as full-bore R 'n' B. I wanted to put more meat into it than he had."

What does not seem to have registered with Jones is that many people thought it was pretty camp the way he did it, too. Neither did Jones seem aware that one side-effect of the song, with its dancer-friendly techno-beat, was to plug the butch Welsh boyo straight into the heart of gay-club culture. As a writer in *Record Collector* summed it up: "Grannies, gender-benders and great-grandchildren can all lay claim to the modern Tom Jones."

Jones looks perplexed. "I never really thought about it before. But then in gay clubs they must play all kinds of things. Gay people have never been offended by me, I don't think. I've never been aware of it."

His most recent professional liaison is with a fellow-Celt, the grumpy Van Morrison, who wrote and produced four of the numbers on Jones's new album, *Carrying a Torch*. The title song entered the singles chart this week at No 63. Morrison gains access to the vast popular market while Jones gets enhanced credibility and the all-important songs.

"I've always had that problem of finding the right material, especially nowadays. Most songwriters are performers and do the songs themselves, so it's hard to get first crack at it. For me, it's the difference between actors and scriptwriters. I find it easy to put over a good song, but I can't write. Van came over with these songs for me to listen to and I thought 'How the hell do you come up with these things?' "

● *Tom Jones appears on* Wogan *(BBC 1) tonight and begins a British tour on March 21.* Carrying a Torch *is released on March 25. The* Omnibus *special is screened on March 29.*

BRIEFING

Gall conquers

THE French have sent an unmistakable signal to Hollywood about the sort of film they want to see winning all the Oscars later this month. It is the sort of film that uses French stars, director and script, and is called *Cyrano de Bergerac*. At the French "academy awards" ceremony in Paris, *Cyrano* – to nobody's great surprise – carried off no fewer than ten of the coveted "Cesars". Its winning categories included Best Film, Best Director (Jean-Paul Rappeneau) and Best Actor (Gerard Depardieu). The award for best foreign film went to Peter Weir's *Dead Poets' Society*.

Popping back

Peter Blake, whose design for the Beatles' *Sergeant Pepper* album was a classic Sixties icons, is back in the public eye with a similarly zany conglomeration of famous faces. His poster for ART/London 91 (the London art fair that opens at Olympia on April 17), depicts Van Gogh, Cézanne and the late Andy Warhol rubbing shoulders beneath a row of glamour studies of the ill-fated film-star Jayne Mansfield. Pop-art, it seems, was merely slumbering, not dead. The poster hits the London Underground next week.

Jazzed up, by Georgia

BATH will be more Georgian than ever this spring, but not because of its 18th-century architecture. One main plank of the Bath Festival (opening on May 24) will be an Anglo-Georgian Jazz Project, linking up with a jazz festival in Tbilisi (the capital of Soviet Georgia is twinned with Bristol). The jazz pianist Keith Tippett will lead two weeks of rehearsals and workshops culminating in performances in Tbilisi and Bath.

Sher things

Antony Sher: Ui due

JOSEPH K. in Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Kafka's *The Trial* will not be Antony Sher's only performance at the National this year. He plays an almost more physically demanding part in the early autumn: the title-role in Brecht's *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. Nobody who saw it will forget the moment when the late Leonard Rossiter's Chicago gangster evolved into a strutting, saluting parody of Hitler.

Dance to the millennium

THE Arts Council has announced the creation of a National Network of Dance Agencies in England, beginning with five pilot schemes costing £300,000. The aim is to establish by the year 2000, in partnership with local authorities, a network of agencies that will help co-ordinate dance activities and offer advice on programming and marketing. The first five pilot agencies are Dance City, Newcastle; East Midlands Dance Agency, Leicester; Thamesdown Dance Studio, Swindon; The Place Theatre, London; and Yorkshire Dance Centre, Leeds.

Serious honour

A ROMAN school, La Scuola media statale di Via Stamira 55, has been renamed the Scuola Charles Chaplin. This is said to be the first time anywhere that an educational institution has been named in honour of the British film-maker and comedian.

Last chance . . .

JUST time to catch, if belatedly, the centenary celebration of Leon Underwood, who was born in 1890 and died in 1975. An early British modernist, he took on board the tenets of the Cubists when young, absorbing them into his sculpture and painting, then moved confidently onward. In 1928 he went to Mexico, having been inspired by pre-Columbian art. What he saw was to influence him for the rest of his life – as may be appreciated in this show, which runs until Friday at the Redfern Gallery (071-494 1732).

DANCE

Knight and Dane in partnership

The composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies talked to John Percival about his first ballet commission in more than a decade, premiered in Copenhagen tomorrow night

Maxwell Davies: excited

Twenty years ago, Peter Maxwell Davies actually appeared on stage with the Royal Ballet. David Drew produced a ballet using the composer's *St Thomas' Wake*, and somebody had to come on at the end to begin sweeping up the assemblage of rubbish that formed the setting. Drew suggested to the composer that it might be amusing for him to make a Hitchcock-like appearance with a broom. Those backstage afterwards to congratulate friends had no idea who he was, but wished him luck for a bigger role next time.

Unfortunately, that was Sir Peter's last involvement with the Royal Ballet, although he has since written two full-length ballet scores. The second, *Caroline Mathilde*, has its premiere tomorrow night in Copenhagen. Like his *Salome* in 1978, it came about through the initiative of the Danish choreographer, Flemming Flindt.

Salome was put on in the big circus building near Tivoli Gardens, with Flindt's wife, Vivi, in the title role, part of an especially assembled company. It played a continuous run of about 90 performances to packed houses and has had further productions in America, Australia and Finland. But not in Britain: there was just one concert performance of extracts from the score, then silence. "Nobody was interested," Sir Peter says.

The new work, *Caroline Mathilde*, came when the Royal Danish Ballet asked Flindt for a new dramatic ballet. The story is the true one of an English princess, granddaughter of George II. At the age of 15 she was sent to marry King Christian VII of Denmark. Driven by the grotesque behaviour of her mentally disturbed husband into a love affair with his doctor, she was arrested before she was 21, sent into exile and soon died.

Flindt persuaded the Royal Theatre Copenhagen to commission the score from Maxwell Davies. He prepared a synopsis and took it to Sir Peter's home in Orkney. The composer comments: "It was a wonderful synopsis, very detailed. We spent two days discussing it.

"To know what is going to be happening in group dances is especially important: when the dancers are waiting on that down beat in the orchestra – and it's got to be there. Also, in those big passionate pas de deux, the composer must know the kind of lift and gesture that is possible.

"It is exciting to work with a choreographer and with the dancers, to watch them in rehearsal and to talk to them. It's a very physical thing – you feel it in your own body. I feel that I ought to have done all this 30 years ago: I am now serving my apprenticeship in my fifties. I did write a piece for dancing, *Nocturnal Dances*, in 1970, but the score has been lost. Barry Moreland was the choreographer and I worked with him on stagings of *In Nomine* and *L'Homme Armé*. I also worked closely with the dancer William Louther for *Vesalii Icones*, and Richard Alston when he did a piece for Rambert on *Hymnos* and *Stedman Doubles*."

In the Sixties and Seventies the composer was heavily involved in music theatre of various kinds, combining his musicians – The Fires of London – with singers, dancers or actors.

"I enjoyed it, but it cost money. I pulled the plug on the Fires of London when it had rung up a five-figure deficit from my own account. The works are still performed: *Vesalii Icones* is done all over the place, although not in Britain. After that nobody else seemed interested in doing that sort of work any longer. Perhaps it was of its time: everybody nowadays seems to want to work on a bigger scale, although there is less money about."

And will he be writing any more ballets? "Well, I don't mind saying quietly that there have been offers, and I am definitely interested."

TELEVISION

Losers make winning subjects

I was not quite sure at first why John Godber's My Kingdom for a Horse (BBC1) was so named. Wrong period, surely? The hero, Steve Deakin, was a history teacher who spent his weekends wielding a 17th-century pike for the Sealed Knot Society: nothing to do with Richard III at all. But the point was, I suppose, that "My kingdom for a horse" is the cry of a man losing a decisive battle. As such, it was perfect for Deakin, who at 31 was devoting himself to phoney wars while losing the battle of his own life.

The point about Deakin (played with convincing and funny charm by Sean Bean) was that he wasn't looking for conflict. He lived with his parents; he taught at the same Yorkshire school he had attended as a boy; his best friend, Pudding, he had known for 20 years. Dressing up as a pikeman for the Sealed Knot gave him the opportunity to feign aggression and then play dead when the battle grew too fierce. At the end of the play, when he had resolved to win his lovely careers-teacher girlfriend (Jane Clifford) by means of a "new battle plan", the clue to his revised strategy was that he was shown taking on the Cavaliers with all his might.

This was a fresh, subtle play, with beautifully cadent Yorkshire dialogue. " 'Night, kid," said Steven's ex-miner dad (Bryan Pringle), popping his jug-eared head round the bedroom door. "Ar," says Steven, looking up. "Have a good time?" "Ar." "Same as usual tomorrow?" "Ar." " 'Night, then." "Night." *Play-for-Today* expectations about the north-country working class bit the dust, perhaps because the play contained no angry message. Even Steven's possessive mother ("You'll always be five years old to me") was portrayed as normal. Sheila Hancock uttered "Don't knock Benidorm," as though the words had never before been framed by a fictional Yorkshire mother.

Last night's Assignment (BBC 2) was similarly about preferring victory abroad to defeat at home. *Uncle Sam's Last Stand* examined the view prevalent among intellectuals in the United States that America is in unremitting decline, and that the Gulf War was a last-ditch attempt to restore national morale: to put "can-do" back into the vocabulary of disillusioned Americans. The overall import of this well-made and interesting programme, however, was that on this particular home front the battle is already lost, and that a renewed faith in sending in the cavalry resonates with the same sad futility of standing on Bosworth field and shouting "My kingdom for a horse".

LYNNE TRUSS

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Lurid pop turns out a tonic

THEATRE

The Frogs/Electra
Shaw

Fab: Fiona Laird, Rachel Spriggs, Antony James, Nick Smith and Jon Williams in *The Frogs*

ENGLISH actors generally fare better with the tragedies of Ancient Greece than with the comedies, presumably because the assumptions of tragedy survived to inspire, however faintly, our own drama, whereas the quirky style of Old Comedy died with Aristophanes. Playing for one week only at this theatre are two productions that reverse the usual achievement: The London Small Theatre Company's *Frogs* is blissfully enjoyable and its *Electra*, the Euripides version, is dire.

Fiona Laird's production views the Aristophanes through Pop Art spectacles. She kits out her cast in such fab Sixties gear, neon green and shocking pink, it is a wonder that Dionysus and his slave Xanthias, setting off for Hades to find a saviour for Athens, do not cross the Styx in a yellow submarine. But, unlike some recent pop versions of Shakespeare, which threw out the baby with the bath water and left only a tidemark of dirt, Laird's colloquial script keeps most of the jibes at Athenian demagogues, who were Aristophanes' prime target.

Even better than this example of loyalty to the original, her firm hold on the material allows her to steer her young cast from the pranks and parodies into the more solemn songs and out again with exceptional skill. The music is also Laird's, mostly quick and intricately phrased, with the cast of five taking turn as Chorus.

In the famous chorus of frogs, two contrasting rhythms elegantly wriggle together into one, so that the "brekeke-kex" of the frogs can be capped with Dionysus's irritated "ko-ax". The fresh neatness of it all comes as a real tonic.

Not only responsible for the script, music and direction, Laird appears in several roles, usually as the Lanky Lill half of a serio-comic double act with Rachel Spriggs' Dinky Doris. Dionysus is played as a daffy flop by Antony James, a gifted comedian with rubber features and a voice that alternates between strangled upper-class vowels and rock-star burbling, suitably backed at such moments by a group chanting "Ba-pa-dooda" and the like.

When the production comes to the contest between the new and old poetry, we are given Nick Smith as a memorable yob-Euripides: " 'Ere tongue, whip me blind, / 'Elp me concentrate me mind!" Jon Williams' Aeschylus is draped in a Noël Coward dressing-gown, though the difference in the two styles would be clearer if he wore the black suit of someone crustier, Pinero or Galsworthy.

Little space remains to roast Adrian Schiller's *Electra*. Apart from Lloyd Notice's dainty Orestes, who shows a feeling for the lines (though comedy seems his forte), the tragedy expires beneath boring performances and daft staging. Clytemnestra wears a blue duvet. Avoid.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE

Unlawful Killing
Royal, Stratford East

THIS is the third play at least to deal with the mysterious death of Hilda Murrell. The body of the retired rose-grower of nearly 80 was found near her abandoned car in the countryside, partly clothed and bearing signs of violence. The explanation — that she surprised a burglar who then abducted her — has been undermined by inconsistencies in both evidence and official procedure. Her anti-nuclear campaigning, a nephew in the Falklands task force and a missing naval log from the time of the Belgrano sinking have led to conspiracy theories of paranoia in high places and a nightmare world of surveillance, phone tapping and blundering operatives.

Playwright Judith Cook has little new to offer the debate. Her play falls leadenly between imaginative theory and factual resumé. It has the bald assertiveness of documentary without its authority. As drama the first half is a non-starter. The most exciting element is Jenny Tiramani's towering design of desks, a pyramid of authority on five levels flanked with television monitor screens. This impressive set frames much explanatory dialogue (even down to the protagonist talking to herself) and carefully planted references.

Talk of the banality of evil sets the key for an imagined catalogue of MI5 incompetence. In an age of privatisation, national defence is contracted out and even private security firms have lesser fleas on their backs to bite 'em: in this case an incestuous child pornographer with a line in Nazi regalia.

A woman reporter narrates in the wooden tones of one who has learnt a lesson by rote. Jeff Teare's production attempts to introduce some excitement by running television footage of riots, police violence and Mrs Thatcher quoting St Francis, none too surely, to the accompaniment of Elgar's Cello Concerto.

The writing leaves one uncertain of what grounds there are for allegations of monumental misdeeds and cover-up. At the very least, both police and coroner are portrayed as staggeringly inefficient but how much is guesswork is not made clear.

Echoing acoustics hardly help the distinctness of some of the players, though Patrick Waldron switches convincingly from high ranking smoothie to Irish accented investigator and Jane Galloway's understated Mrs Thatcher contrasts nicely with her prissy anti-Sizewell campaigner. You can almost taste the tofu (stereotyping works both ways).

MARTIN HOYLE

CONCERT

Vienna SO/ Harnoncourt
Barbican

THE programme was Mozart again, of course; a suitable offering for the Vienna Symphony Orchestra to bring on its visit to our capital. This was, however, a concert with a difference, because the VSO displayed its trump card. The conductor was Nikolaus Harnoncourt, who can usually be relied upon for a fresh, even quirky, point of view. These days, though, when he transports himself from the arena of period-style instruments to that of modern ones, he may not be able fully to maintain his notorious appetite, loved by some and loathed by others, for wilful eccentricity.

True, there were two or three oddities in this concert that did not quite work, but only that many. For instance, a phrase such as the little rising scale that rounds off the opening idea in the slow movement of the Symphony No 38, the "Prague", sounded over-rehearsed, so what should have been an elegantly flexible shape emerged as somewhat stilted. Similarly, the delay and heavy stress on the accent in the Trio of the Minuet in the Symphony No 36, the "Linz", leaned towards coarseness, like some stodgy, over-sweet Viennese cake, despite the beautiful, subtly modulated tone of the oboist, Clemens Horak.

Yet against such moments — and those when an occasional slip in precision of ensemble would intrude — could be set Harnoncourt's unique ability to thrill his audience with the unexpected. Accents and slurs tended to be exaggerated, true to form, and his attention to intensity of dynamics was as acute as ever. In the Symphony No 35, the "Haffner", one of the chief joys was the martial thwack of the timpani, played with hard-headed sticks and thus penetrating the texture like a laser beam.

This piece's finale, and those of both of the other symphonies, revealed a remarkable fiery verve in the orchestra's playing; while the slower music, sometimes a touch complacently shaped by Harnoncourt, was played with an appealing ripeness of a predictably less homogeneous kind than that of this orchestra's illustrious Viennese colleagues, the Philharmonic. Tempting though it is to compare the two orchestras, they are of markedly contrasting characters.

Yesterday an inexplicable aberration caused me to rename Julian Evans in my review of his excellent piano playing with the New London Orchestra. Profuse apologies to him.

STEPHEN PETTITT

JAZZ

Don Cherry
Jazz Café

ONLY in cinema re-creations do jazz clubs and jazz music achieve aesthetic harmony; in real life, jazz and clubs frequently exist in mutual antipathy. Don Cherry must have grasped this stark fact from the outset, playing pocket trumpet in the late Fifties with the Ornette Coleman Quartet.

The free jazz period is long gone, and much of the critical invective it generated has passed into legend, yet Cherry continues to grapple with the clamour of 30 patrons and belligerent interior design. The Jazz Café is a congenial enough venue for a drink and a chat; juxtapose its array of high-tech shiny surfaces and bubbling jazz enthusiasts with Cherry's new group, Multi Kulti, and the ingredients stubbornly refuse to merge.

Aside from the incidental fact that he is Neneh Cherry's stepfather, Don Cherry's public profile has been elevated during the last three years by two exemplary releases on a major record label. The three young musicians who accompanied him to London were featured on the most recent of these albums; Peter Apfelbaum, in particular, was allowed to steer the proceedings at the Jazz Café with his bold piano and tenor saxophone playing, and supplied two of the strongest compositions of the night, "Until the Rain Comes" and "Let's Walk to the Mountain".

As their titles might suggest, these were both gospel influenced. Cherry has always enjoyed working with tenor saxophonists who play in this mode of broad-toned, revival-tent passion, yet his own contributions seemed distant and oblique. Sometimes they were just plain sloppy. One might not wish Cherry to join the ranks of slick jazz professionals, but there was an air of on-stage coaching, allowing his protégés room to build their confidence, burying his own abilities accordingly.

The point when Cherry finally stilled the room came from a most unlikely source. Coaxing a gentle, buzzing melody from an African stringed instrument, he was joined by Apfelbaum's flute and some overdue subtlety from drummer Joshua Jones. The harsh acoustics softened and high-tech gave way, if only momentarily, to low-tech.

DAVID TOOP

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

BERLIN JERUSALEM: Amos Gitai's stylised exploration of the Zionist dream: clever on paper, less rewarding on the screen.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

FEAR (18): Demure Ally Sheedy as the lady in peril — a psychic with a gift for seeing brutal murders. Fair psychological chiller from writer-director Rockne O'Bannon.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

◆ THE GODFATHER PART III (15): Brooding finale to Francis Ford Coppola's Mafia saga, handsomely staged but lacking resonance. Al Pacino, Andy Garcia, Talia Shire.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636).
Empire (071-497 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

AVALON (U): Engaging personal saga about immigrant experience and post-war breakup of family life, by *Rain Man* director Barry Levinson. Fine performances by Armin Mueller-Stahl, Joan Plowright.
Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

◆ BUDDY'S SONG (12): Roger Daltrey as an ageing pop musician whose tedious marital problems are resolved through the musical talents of his son. Director, Claude Whatham.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

C'EST LA VIE (12): Evocative autobiographical recollection by French director Diane Kurys: a childhood seaside holiday soured by marital breakup. With Nathalie Baye.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Premiere (071-439 4470).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Oscar nominee Gérard Depardieu masterful as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Lumière (071-836 0691) Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant sucked into the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut with aplomb. Nominated for 12 Oscars.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6861) Odeon Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

DECEMBER BRIDE (PG): Irish tale of a strong-willed servant girl; bogged down by dour atmosphere, but enlivened by Saskia Reeves. Director, Thaddeus O'Sullivan.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Metro (071-437 0757).

THE FIELD (12): Richard Harris in Thirties Ireland, fighting for his land. Grandly visualised, but windy drama; from the *My Left Foot* team.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

◆ GOODFELLAS (18): Oscar nominee Martin Scorsese's dynamic gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. Ray Liotta is easily outgunned by the supporting players: Joe Pesci and Robert De Niro.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

GREEN CARD (12): Marriage of convenience becomes unbearable when slobbish Gérard Depardieu moves in with uptight Andie MacDowell. Likeable New York romantic comedy; director, Peter Weir.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening, stranded in a glossy limbo.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Odeon Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ HENRY AND JUNE (18): Anaïs Nin's passionate affair with Henry Miller, set in bohemian Paris during the early 1930s, recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman.
Empire (071-497 9999).

MILLER'S CROSSING (18): Prohibition gang warfare from the brothers Coen: brooding, labyrinthine, over-laden with words and smart artifice. Gabriel Byrne, Albert Finney.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034)
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Gate (071-727 4043).

MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG): Eloquent portrait of an upper middle-class American marriage, from Evan S. Connell's novels. Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman; director, James Ivory.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history.
Minema (071-235 4225) Premiere (071-439 4470) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

◆ PACIFIC HEIGHTS (15): Evil tenant Michael Keaton makes life hell for landlords Matthew Modine and Melanie Griffith. Strenuous, implausible thriller; director, John Schlesinger.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-abused actress; Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director, Mike Nichols.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (15): Oscar nominee Jeremy Irons as the inscrutable Claus von Bulow, tried for the attempted murder of his wife. Brilliant unravelling of a recent enigma; director, Barbet Schroeder.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ THE RUSSIA HOUSE (12): Serpentine spy games with Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer. Muted thriller from John Le Carré's novel; director, Fred Schepisi.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034)
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6861) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci. With John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Plaza (071-497 9999).

TILAI (PG): Formidably beautiful African tale of love versus village traditions from Idrissa Ouedraogo, director of Yaaba.
Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
▨ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR: Ayckbourn's sublimely dark farce, set on three Christmas Eves. Last week.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

☐ ALL IN THE WRONG: Sam Walters' bright new theatre opens with an amiable 18th-century romp of sexual misunderstandings.
Orange Tree, 45 Kew Road, Richmond (081-940 3633). Underground/BR: Richmond. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Closes March 30.

☐ THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM: Intriguing 18th-century heroic tragedy as performed by 19th-century Thespians. London-Irish arts festival production.
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223). British Rail: Clapham Junction. Tonight-Sun, 8pm.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☐ 42ND STREET: Irresistible tap-dancing novice-to-star musical back in town to give everyone a tonic.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes April 20.

☐ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Emotional hangups, marital breakup and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's patchy drama.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes March 23.

▨ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Cherie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire and Koshiro Matsumoto IX in old-fashioned show, packed with a wealth of hit songs.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Underground: Angel. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. Closes March 30.

☐ MAP OF THE HEART: Here be clichés. Tedious love-triangle blogs by *Shadowlands* author William Nicholson.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3667). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ PURGATORY IN INGOLSTADT: Violence and cruelty among school children in pre-Hitler Germany: superb production of Marieluise Fleisser's prescient 1924 play.
Gate, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Underground: Notting Hill Gate. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. In repertory with *Pioneers in Ingolstadt*. Closes March 30.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE RISING OF THE MOON: Excellently-acted first play by James Doherty: survivors of a Glasgow-Irish childhood fight over their past.
Old Red Lion, 418 St John Street, EC1 (071-837 7816). Underground: Angel. Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs 5mins. Closes March 23.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

■ SILLY COW: Ben Elton's awkward collection of one-liners, centred around Dawn French as a ghoulish tabloid journo.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

▨ TIMON OF ATHENS: David Suchet suave and sulphurous in a modern-dress production by Trevor Nunn that enlivens Shakespeare's blank spots.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 1.30pm. Running time: 3hrs 15mins. Closes April 20.

▨ TWELFTH NIGHT: Peter Hall's production stresses comedy and motive: with Eric Porter, Dinsdale Landen, David Ryall.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Underground: Embankment. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. Running time: 2hrs 40mins.

■ THE VISIT: Théâtre de Complicité triumph in Dürrenmatt's black comedy of revenge and corruption.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight, 7.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 55mins.

☐ THE WINTER WIFE: Eloquent, absorbing glimpse of Katherine Mansfield, convalescing on the Riviera in 1922, tormenting the woman who loves her.
Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes Saturday.

LONG RUNNERS: ▨ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ▨ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ▨ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☐ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA: Revival of Michael Hampe's production, restaged for the Royal Opera by Jeremy Sutcliffe. Bruce Ford as Count Almaviva and Jennifer Larmore as Rosina, make their company debuts, François Le Roux plays Figaro and Gregory Yurisich is Dr Bartolo. The young Italian conductor Carlo Rizzi conducts.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

SHOW BOAT: Ian Judge directs members of Opera North and the Royal Shakespeare Company in Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II's musical, showing in London until April 20.
London Palladium, Argyll Street, London W1 (071-437 7373/2055), 7.30pm.

MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: David Freeman's last instalment of the Mozart/Da Ponte operas for Opera Factory firmly anchors itself to action and words, with less emphasis on vocal allure. Last performance.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: William Boughton conducts Grieg's *Peer Gynt* suite, Sibelius's Fifth Symphony and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor (with soloist *Laurent Korcia*).
Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon (081-688 9291), 8pm.

YURI BASHMET: The English Chamber Orchestra continues the Mozart 200 series with Viktor Liberman and Yuri Bashmet performing in the Sinfonia Concertante in E flat. Liberman conducts the remainder of the programme: Symphony No 33 in B flat, K319 and the "Posthorn" serenade.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

DON CHERRY: Ornette Coleman's partner and Neneh's stepfather, here with his pocket trumpet and world music ensemble, Multi Kulti.
Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, London NW1 (071-284 4358), 8.30pm.

AMERICAN COMEDY CLUB: An all-American comedy venue opens, promising the best stand-ups from the USA, with two different performers flown in weekly.
Coconuts Comedy Club, Larry's Bar, 20 Mercer Street, London WC2 (071-836 4900), 8pm.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC: The distinguished Japanese conductor Tadaaki Otaka makes his debut with the RLPO tonight, conducting Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor (performed by Martin Roscoe), Wolf's *Italian Serenade* and Stravinsky's *Petrushka*.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool (051-709 3789), 7.30pm.

TWILIGHT OF THE TSARS: In the two decades before the Russian Revolution, the local avant-garde art movement included Art Nouveau architects, artist-craftsmen who went back to the land and the peasant for inspiration, and painters who wildly mixed and matched styles from all over the world. There were also the eclectic confectioners of Fabergé, hatching their mad Easter eggs, and artists who found all the exoticism they needed in the East. This fine show of Russian art at the turn of the century covers it all, looking back to an heroic past and forward to revolution.
Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (071-928 3144), 10am-8pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

TEF
(c) The principal Ethiopian cereal grass, *Poa* (*Eragrostis*) *abyssinica*, producing minute red or white grains from which bread is made, from the Amharic *teff*: "There are three kinds of meal made from tef, of which the best is as white as flour, the second is of a browner colour, and the last is nearly black."

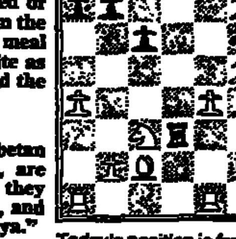
TANGUN
(a) The Tibetan piebald pony, from the Tibetan *rtanan*: "The small horses, the tanguns, are noted for their hardihood and activity, but they are not natives, but introduced from Tibet, and they degenerate on the south of the Himalaya."

VIBRISSA
(b) A tactile bristle, as a cats whisker, nostril hair, from the Latin *vibrare* to vibrate: "The vibrissae are sparse and short, the longest scarcely or not attaining the eye."

FREMITUS
(b) Dull roar, murmur, continuous noise, from the Latin: "All at first was the fremitus of things, the jigget of gnats, drum of blood, fidget of leaves."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Today's position is from the game Maister — Grodzov, Correspondence 1954. Can you spot Black's highly unusual mating combination? Solution tomorrow.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Bc8! forces a win of material. If 1 ... Qxa3 2 Rxa3 and 3 Rxa6, or if 1 ... Qxc6 2 Qxf8+!! and 3 Re8 mate.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc 1st Call 071 240 7200 (24hr / 7 day) 071 379 4444
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 7.00 RUSALKA
Tomor 8.00 SALOME

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (24hrs/no bkg fee) 071 836 3464. 20-30 Mar only! WELSH NATIONAL OPERA'S ACCLAIMED CHAMBER VERSION OF Hansel & Gretel by Humperdinck

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066 / 1911. Standby info 836 6903.S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't 7.30
Il Barbiere di Siviglia
Tomor 7.30 Samson et Dalila

THEATRES

ALDWYCH B.O/CC 071-836 6404 Also CC (no bkg fee): 071-836 2428 071 793 1000 379 4444
LTD SEASON FROM 3 APRIL ENGLISH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY CORIOLANUS & THE WINTER'S TALE "Distinctive, populist and barnstorming" Ind.

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 793 1000/071 379 4444 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) Grps 071 930 6123
NOW BOOKING TO SEPT
ME AND MY GIRL
THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL
Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00
"THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" Sunday Express

ALBERY BO & cc (no fee) 867 1115 cc (no fee)867 1111/379 4444 bkg fee 793 1000/497 9977
BEST MUSICAL SWET Award 1983
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
with STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
"ASTONISHING...A Milestone in British Musicals" S Exp
"...Brings the audience to its feet and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 071 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Grps 828 6188 cc 24hr 379 4444/240 7200 071 793 1000 Grps 930 6123
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0
SEVENTH HIT YEAR
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
OAP's £8 on Tues Mats
NOW BOOKING TO 28 SEPT

APOLLO Box Office/CC/Grps 071 437 2663 CC 793 1000 (no bkg fee)/379 4444/836 2428(bkg fee).
SIMON CADELL SU POLLARD
JANE HOW JOHN QUAYLE
In the new comedy
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
Previews from 20 March Mon-Fri 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
Opens 26 March at 7pm

COMEDY B.O 071 867 1045/1111cc Also CC (no bkg fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977 793 1000
"STUNNING... A POWERFUL EVENING" Mail
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
WARREN MITCHELL CHERIE LUNGHI
The HOMECOMING
by HAROLD PINTER
Directed by Peter Hall
"DISTURBINGLY HILARIOUS" Indep
Eves 8.00, MATS WED 3.00, SAT 5.00
SEASON NOW EXTENDED

PETER HALL COMPANY PLAYHOUSE
Twelfth Night
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY PETER HALL
"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER" GUARDIAN
THE PLAYHOUSE
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE WC2
BOX OFFICE: 071 839 4401
FIRST CALL: 071 379 [illegible]

CAMBRIDGE 071-379 5299 CC 071 379 4444 (24hr no Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977(24hr)/071 793 1000 (B. Fees) Grps 071 240 7941
"Go In and Rock..." The Times
BEST MUSICAL Olivier Awards 1990
RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET
"The brashest, boldest musical" C Limits
"Breathless and brilliant" D Mir
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5 & 8.30
All seats £8.50 Fri 5pm only
"Deliciously addictive" D Tel
"Awesome" What's On

DUCHESS 071-836 8243 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000 (no bkg fee) 071-240 7200 (bkg fee) Groups 071-930 6123
Theatre of Comedy Company
HENRY McGEE LESLIE LAWTON & WILLIAM LUCAS in RAY COONEY'S "HILARIOUS" (S.Times)
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!
LONDONS LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY
8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Thu mat 2.30

DOMINION 071 580 8845 cc 071 580 9562
Evgs 7.30 Mats Thurs (O.A.P's £6.50) & Sat 2.30
42ND ST
"a show stopping sensation" Daily Mail
42ND ST
"generates enough infectious excitement to charge anyone's batteries" D Exp
42ND ST
"is the greatest cliche in show business" E.S.
don't miss the real musical
42ND ST
"tapping into our hearts" The Times
Limited Season Until April 20th.

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071-379 4444/240 7200/793 1000 Grps 831 8626
INFO + AVAIL 0839 333670
MISS SAIGON
"MUSICALS COME AND GO THIS ONE WILL STAY" S Tms
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
CHECK DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS.
Latecomers not admitted until the interval. A FEW GOOD SEATS STILL AVAIL FOR MIDWEEK MATS. APPLY TO BOX OFFICE. NOW BOOKING UNTIL 30 SEPT 1991, FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS (071 836 8108)

DUKE OF YORKS BO & cc 836 5122 cc 836 9837 cc 836 3464/379 4444/793 1000
COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988
ELIZABETH ESTENSEN
in WILLY RUSSELL'S "GEM"
SHIRLEY VALENTINE
Evens 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5
"The audience roars approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" Mail "Funniest play for years" Daily Mirror

FORTUNE 071 836 2238
MARIE LLOYD
4pm EVERY SUNDAY 4pm

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 071 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 (24hr) 071 793 1000
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian
"MASTERLY" Exp "CHILLING" Ind
"Take Tranquillisers" T Out
Eves 8 Mats Tue 3 & Sat 4
"HOORAY FOR HORROR" D Mail
NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '91

GLOBE 071 437 3667 cc 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (no fee)/071 240 7200 (bkg fee)
"THE MOST PROFOUNDLY MOVING PLAY IN THE WEST END... A MUST - SEE PLAY" Daily Express
PATRICK MALAHIDE SINEAD CUSACK
SUSAN WOOLDRIDGE
MAP OF THE HEART
by WILLIAM NICHOLSON
Directed by PETER WOOD
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00, Sat 4.00

GARRICK BO & CC 071 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 240 7200/793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123
NICOLA PAGETT JONATHAN HYDE
MILES ANDERSON
THE REHEARSAL
by JEAN ANOUILH
"SHOULD BE SEEN" FT
Eves 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL B.O. 071 930 8800 or 24hr Hotline 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee)
DAWN FRENCH IN SILLY COW
BY BEN ELTON
MON - THUR EVEN 8.00 pm, FRI and SAT EVEN 8.45 pm MATS FRI and SAT 5.30 pm

HER MAJESTYS Enquiries 0836 430921 071-839 2244 24hr CC 379-4444 (bkg fee) 793-1000 (bkg fee) 497-9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930-6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
DAVE WILLETTS
JILL WASHINGTON MICHAEL CORMICK
Irén Bartok plays Christine at certain performances
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
SOLD OUT UNTIL SEPT 28 1991
40-60 RETURNS SOLD EACH PERF: QUEUE DAILY

KINGS HEAD 071-226 1916. 8pm DECEPTIONS with Anne Carteret & Jamie Glover.

LONDON PALLADIUM B/O & CC 071 437 7373 CC (bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (24 hrs) 071 379 4444 081 741 9999 Grps 071 240 7941
5 OLIVIER NOMINATIONS including BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL
Kern and Hammerstein's
SHOW BOAT
"Best Song Musical I Have Ever Heard On The West-End Stage" Gdn
Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed Sat 2.30
The Opera North/RSC Production
Directed by Ian Judge
Limited Season 13 March-18 May

LONDON PALLADIUM BO 071 437 7373/437 2055 cc 24hr 379 4444 (no bkg-fee) 497 9977 24hr (bkg fee) Previews From 1 June Opens 12 June
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber
Starring JASON DONOVAN

LYRIC, Shafts Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444
"SONG & DANCE DYNAMITE" Daily Mail
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
Nominated For 4 Olivier Awards
"A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian
"The joint never stops jumpin'" Time Out
(Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat at 6.00 & 8.45)
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) THE WINTER WIFE By Claire Tomalin.
"A COMPELLING STUDY OF FEVERISH GENIUS... AN ACCOMPLISHED, EXQUISITE AND ELEGANT PLAY" Times.
7.45 pm - FINAL WEEK
STUDIO 081 741 8701 THE ROUND TABLE by Christoph Hein 8pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252: Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee: 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Today 2.00 (SIGNED PERF) & 7.15 Tomor 7.15 (SIGNED PERF) THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Grahame adapted by Bennett (SOLD OUT RETURNS ONLY)
LYTTELTON
Ton't 7.30 THE VISIT Durrenmatt adapted by Valency Tomor 7.30 THE TRIAL Kafka adapted by Berkoff
COTTESLOE
Ton't 7.00 (PRESS NIGHT) Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 INVISIBLE FRIENDS Ayckbourn

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 071 405 0072 CC 404 4079 Grps 405 1567 (All above cc numbers avail from 9am) All Hrs 379 4444 Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches (Grp bkg) 930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45
NOW BOOKING THRU OCT
SEATS NOW AVAIL

OLD VIC 071 928 7616 or 071 793 0000 (agency no fee) cc (all with bkg fee) 071 793 1000/379 4444/497 9977
For the First Time Ever in London OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II's CELEBRATED MUSICAL
CARMEN JONES
Music by BIZET
Based on his Opera "CARMEN"
directed by Simon Callow
musical director and principal conductor Henry Lewis
From 8 April. NOW BOOKING

PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc24hrs (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071-930 6123 Grps 071-494 1671
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
THE MUSICAL SENSATION
Evgs 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT 91
APPLY TO BOX OFFICE DAILY FOR RETURNS/CANCELLATIONS

Phoenix BO + CC 071 867 1044 cc 379 4444 (no fee) 793 1000/497 9977
DANCING AT LUGHNASA
4 OLIVIER NOMINATIONS
"Poignant, hilarious & spell-binding" Sun Times.
"Brian Friel's new masterpiece ... ASTONISHING" D Express.
Red price Previews from 21 March Opens 25 March at 7.00pm

PICCADILLY 071 867 1118 cc no bkg fee: 867 1111/071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (24hrs)/bkg fee: 071 497 9977 (24hrs)
Nominated for BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL Olivier Awards 1991
RICHARD O'BRIEN'S "MAD BAD FUN MUSICAL" D Mir
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Directed by Robin Lefevre
"RAMPANT WITH ACTIVITY" S.Express
Mon-Thur 8 Fri & Sat 7 & 9.15
90 minute show

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 071-839 4401 cc First Call 24hr 071 379 9453 (no bkg fee)
PETER HALL COMPANY
"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER" Gdn.
TWELFTH NIGHT
Directed by Peter Hall
"A ravishing production" D.Exp
10 WEEKS ONLY
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat at 3
Theatre Restaurant 928 2814
[illegible] GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First Call 24 hr 836 3464 Ticketmaster 379 4444 K Prowse 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 240 7941/930 6123 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
CHILDREN OF EDEN
"EXPLODES ONTO THE STAGE... A RIOT OF COLOUR, ENERGY AND PURE JOY" Today by John Caird Stephen Schwartz

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 24hr 379 6131 (bkg fee) 793 1000 Grps 930 6123
ASPECTS OF LOVE
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" D.Tel
Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0
NOW BOOKING TO OCTOBER '91

QUEENS 071-734 1166 cc 071 379 4444 (No bkg fee) 071-497 9977/071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 071-930 6123
STEFANIE POWERS JOHN BARROWMAN & NICKY HENSON
MATADOR
A New Musical
Directed by Elijah Moshinsky
Previews from 2nd April

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
STRATFORD UPON AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon - Sat 9am - 8pm)
WINTER VISITORS' SEASON
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
HENRY IV PART 1 Previews from 26 March
THE SWAN: DON GIOVANNI Ton't 7.30
PUBLIC BOOKING NOW OPEN FOR NEW LONDON & STRATFORD UPON AVON SEASONS. For Prac leaflet phone 0789 205301

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916
SUSAN HAMPSHIRE KOSHIRO MATSUMOTO
in Rodgers & Hammerstein's
THE KING AND I
"MAGIC" D. Mail
"SUMPTUOUS" Times
"ELEGANT" D.Exp
Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 2.30
GROUP SALES 071 930 6123 cc 793 1000/379 4444
LAST 22 PERFORMANCES!

SHAFTESBURY 071-379 5399 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000(no bkg fee) 071-497 9977(Bkg Fee) Groups 071-930 6123
Nominated Olivier Award COMEDY OF THE YEAR
DONALD SINDEN MICHAEL WILLIAMS in RAY COONEY'S "WICKEDLY FUNNY" (D.Tel)
OUT OF ORDER
"A TRIUMPH" (F.Times)
8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30 Wed mat 2.30
FINAL WEEK OF SHAFTESBURY SEASON

SHAFTESBURY cc 071-379 5399 cc (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071 930 6123
PETER O'TOOLE
in "THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR" E. Std
JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL
by Keith Waterhouse
directed by Ned Sherrin
Eves 8.30pm, Sat 5 & 8.30pm
FROM 22 MAR LIMITED SEASON 10 WEEKS ONLY!

ST MARTIN'S 071-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0
39th Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND BO & CC 071 240 0300 CC (Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977/071 379 4444/071 793 1000
DAVE ALLEN
"Wicked, incisive" The People
"Outrageously enjoyable" D.Exp
Season extended to 4 May
Monday - Saturday 8pm

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071-836 9987 CC (no bkg fee) 379 4444/793 1000 CC (bkg fee) 836 2428
KIT & THE WIDOW
Lavishly Bisected!
From March 25 for 3 weeks only.
Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.40

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 4444/240 7200 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
"SHEER UNADULTERATED FUN..."
"I LOVE THIS SHOW" Sun Exp.
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30. ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF
2nd SENSATIONAL YEAR
NOW BOOKING TO SEPTEMBER '91

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071-836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 [illegible] 24 hr cc 836 2428 / [illegible] (bkg fee) Mon-Fri Evgs [illegible] Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 [illegible]
HANNAH GORDON
PETER BARKWORTH
KEVIN McNALLY in
HIDDEN LAUGHTER
"SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph
LAST 2 WEEKS ENDS MARCH [illegible]
OPENS APRIL 16 FOR [illegible]
MAUREEN LIPMAN in [illegible]

WHITEHALL BO & cc [illegible] 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S ACHINGLY FUNNY [illegible]
ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR
"leaves the viewer weak with laughter and admiration" D Tel
"I CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD" Today
Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat at 4.30
LAST WEEK!!

WHITEHALL 867 1119 cc [illegible] 1111 379 4444 (no fee) 793 1000 (bkg fee)
Previews from March 27
OPENS APRIL 10 AT 7.00
LESLIE GRANTHAM IN RICK'S BAR CASABLANCA
the original play by Murray Burnett and Joan Alison
Evgs 8.00. Sats 6.00 & 9.00
Mats Thurs 3.00

WYNDHAMS 071 867 1116 cc 071 379 4444/793 1000(No Fee) & 24hr CC 836 2428 (Bkg Fee)
SHEILA GISH CLIVE FRANCIS
JOSEPH MAHER in
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW
by JOE ORTON
"RIOTOUSLY FUNNY" D Tel
Eves 8.00 Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45

ART GALLERIES

ROY MILES GALLERY 29, Bruton St W1. 071-495 4747. BRITISH MONTH 300 Paintings on View Mon-Fri 10-5, Sats 10-1.

SPINK, King Street, St James's, SW1. RICHARD FOSTER: OILS & WATERCOLOURS. Open today until 28th March. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 071 465 8865 Paul Newman Joanne Woodward in Merchant Ivory's MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG) Progs at 1.00 (not Sun) 3.30 6.00 8.40

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 Elizabeth Perkins Joan Plowright in Barry Levinson's AVALON (U) Progs at 12.30 (not Sun) 3.05 5.45 8.35

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Avenue W1 071 439 4805, Richard Harris John Hurt Tom Berenger in THE FIELD (12) Progs at 1.00 (not Sun) 3.50 6.10 8.30

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on long distance love affairs 9.55 Regional news and weather
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Stoppit and Tidyup (r) 10.35 She's the Sheriff. American comedy series (r)
11.00 News and weather 11.05 People Today
12.00 News and weather 12.05 Happy Memories. Cliff Michelmore and Wendy Gibson delve in the BBC archives for clips of film and music that evoke pleasant memories for viewers 12.20 Scene Today. Live entertainment and chat from Pebble Mill with Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.50 Racing from Cheltenham. Live coverage of the 2.15, 2.50 and 3.30 races. With commentary by Peter O'Sullevan and Richard Pitman. The 4.05 race is on BBC2

Calling the Cheltenham field: Peter O'Sullevan (1.50pm)

3.50 *Bodger and Badger. Episode ten of the 12-part children's school* comedy series 4.05 Quick Draw McGraw. Cartoon (r) 4.15 *Jackanory. Kevin Whately tells the final part of Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine 4.25 The Chipmunks 4.40 Potsworth* and Co. Cartoon series
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Dodgem. Episode four of the six-part children's *drama about a boy caring for his father* who is suffering from clinical depression as a result of a car accident involving his wife. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan. With Flt Lts John Peters and Adrian Nichol, their wives and children; Mike Carr, the new Ribble valley MP; and Sir Peter Ustinov. Music is provided by Tom Jones
7.35 Doogie Howser MD. American comedy series about a teenage doctor, likeable or nauseating according to taste. (Ceefax)
8.00 Over My Dead Body. Standard American drama series in which Edward Woodward stars as a crime writer prevailed upon by a young journalist (Jessica Lundy) to solve real crimes and generally makes a nuisance of himself by meddling in police affairs. (Ceefax)
8.45 Points Of View presented by Anne Robinson
8.55 Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour party
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Q.E.D: Smoking.
● *CHOICE:* A powerful propaganda piece for national no smoking day tries to frighten us off the weed with a combination of shocking statistics and grisly footage of poisoned innards. To ram the point home, there are also sobering case histories. The most poignant is of a man dying from lung cancer, only 50, with a wife and four children. He says he regrets the waste. Every week in Britain 3,000 people die from smoking. The world tally is a death every 13 seconds. Next century it will be a death every four seconds, as tobacco companies turn increasingly to the Third World. The film was commissioned by the European Commission and made by a Danish film-maker, Dah Säll. This explains the large Scandinavian content; although there are British participants as well and the commentary is delivered by the familiar voice of Maggie Philbin. (Ceefax)
10.00 Sportsnight presented by Steve Rider. Football: a review of the FA Cup sixth round matches; Ice Skating: the world figure championships from Munich; Racing: highlights of the second day's racing at the Cheltenham Festival: Rugby Union: a preview of the weekend's final five nations' championship matches
11.30 Film: A Man Called Horse (1970). Richard Harris stars in this ambitious western which claimed to give an authentic portrayal of Sioux manners and customs. Harris plays an English aristocrat who is captured by Sioux indians in 1825 and integrated into their culture through a series of particularly nasty initiation ceremonies. These, and a heavy use of indian dialogue, do not make for easy viewing, although the formula proved successful enough to spawn two sequels. There is a notable score by Leonard Rosenman. *Directed by Elliot Silverstein, who a few years earlier made a much jokier western, Cat Ballou* 1.20am Weather

BBC2

7.10 Open University: The Earth's Physical Resources. Resource Geology. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two: Birmingham to London in five minutes 9.05 Together 9.30 Adventures in maths for seven to nine-year-olds 9.45 Science for five and six-year-olds 10.00 You and Me 10.15 Search Out Science 10.40 Around Scotland 11.00 Learning to read 11.15 Standard Grade History 11.35 Inset 12.10 Science in Action 12.30 Lifeschool 12.55 Maths help for adults 1.20 Pie in the Sky 1.40 Zig Zag
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 Canvas. Patrick Nuttgens considers Landseer's most famous painting, The Monarch of the Glen (r) 2.35 Country File. John Craven reports on fears that the sale of land to private owners may permanently restrict public access to many of Britain's woods and forests (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.45 News, regional news and weather.
3.55 Racing from Cheltenham continued from BBC1. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of the 4.05 race
4.20 Latin American! Ballroom dancing Latin style (r)
4.30 Fighting Talk. The forthright historian and columnist Professor Norman Stone gives his views on the future of the new order in Europe to journalist John Lloyd. He discusses issues arising from the unification of Europe, expresses his lack of faith in the bureaucratic processes inherent within the EC and stresses the *need for Britain to maintain its sovereignty and national identity*
5.00 News headlines followed by Miniature Worlds. The underwater monsters living beneath the surface of a duckpond (r)
5.10 Horizon. A visit to the central American state of Belize to examine what could become the most fashionable holiday package on the market — ecotourism (r)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Star date 41697.9 and the people who boldly go where no man has gone before are trying to sort out a distortion in the space time continuum and an unwanted *window into another dimension, all caused by a meddlesome* scientist experimenting in non-linear time. As if this is not enough, Captain Picard has to deal with a severe emotional shock when he is reunited with his first love as a result of the time-twist. (Ceefax)
6.50 DEF II begins with Reportage. The prime minister has pledged himself to the creation of a new classless society of opportunity in Great Britain. Reportage asks whether it is simply a dream, or can this ideal be turned into a workable reality 7.40 Rapido featuring KLF, europop band Enigma, the Black Crowes and fresh from his sojourn in Bel Air, the prince himself — Will Smith

A portrait in his own words: Friar Roger Bacon (8.10pm)

8.10 Timewatch: The Transmission of Roger Bacon.
● CHOICE: Since Roger Bacon, friar and pioneer science thinker, unobligingly died in the Middle Ages, James Burge's portrait has to make do without the standard television documentary devices of interview and archive footage. But Burge builds his programme around a loose form of dramatisation, using Bacon's own writings and the actor Michael Culver to impersonate him. David Lindberg, an American scholar, provides a linking narrative. We pick up Bacon in the summer of 1268, musing on the state of knowledge about matters as local as the death rituals of the Tibetans and as awesome as the scale of the universe and the size of the stars. Burge does his best to make the programme visual, setting Bacon in his friar's cell and sending Lindberg to Oxford and Paris. But it relies so much on words and ideas that it might have been done just as effectively on radio
9.00 Screenplay: The Land of Dreams. Patrick Shai stars as Joseph Mnwana, a black South African who arrives at Heathrow seeking political asylum, to find the authorities suspicious of his motives. Antony Sher makes what is nowadays a rare television appearance as the South African-born lawyer David Samuels, resident in London, who takes up Mnwana's case with the Home Office. Allan Cubitt's compelling drama was first shown in the *Screenplay* season last August. It asks questions and raises issues which are still relevant (r)
10.30 Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour party
10.35 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman
11.20 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 12.00 Weather
12.05am The Open University: Literature in the Modern World — English Whose English? Ends at 12.35

ITV

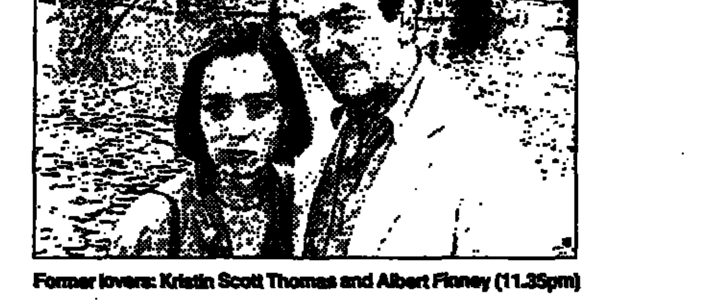
6.00 TV-am
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word quiz hosted by Lennie Bennett 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . John Stapleton chairs a discussion on fashion-conscious children
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan with cookery tips from Kevin Woodford and agony aunt Denise Robertson on hand with advice for worried viewers.
12.05 Allsorts. For the young 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian soap set in a rural community health centre
2.20 Take the High Road. Scottish soap that follows the lives of those resident in a Highland community 2.50 Jumble. Jeff Stevenson hosts the game show for crossword addicts
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian medical drama
3.55 Woof! The adventures of a young boy who periodically turns into a dog. (Oracle) 4.25 Garfield and Friends
5.00 Blockbusters. Quiz game for teenagers presented by Bob Holness
5.30 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Find a Family. A family of four young children from Wales hope to find a foster home to enable them to stay together
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another worthy
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
8.00 Inspector Morse: Who Killed Harry Field? Television's favourite policeman investigates the death of a drunken, fun-loving artist who specialised in forging paintings and inventing coats of arms. With John Thaw in his award-winning role as the morose, opera-loving Morse, the man with no first name, Kevin Whately as the put-upon Sgt Lewis and Geraldine James as the dead man's wife. (Oracle)
10.00 Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party
10.05 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Somerville. (Oracle) Weather 10.35 Thames News and weather

Feeding a Peruvian child: Ann Winifred Goulden (10.45pm)

10.45 Compass: For the Sake of the Children.
● CHOICE: The first in a documentary series of "personal voyages" features the formidable Ann Winifred Goulden, known as Anita, who has devoted her life to caring for the sick and abandoned children of Peru. She was running a haberdashery shop in Manchester when she first visited Peru as a tourist in 1958. Coming across a child left to die by the roadside convinced her she should stay and help. She has never been back to England. A film by Roger Mills, a veteran of much outstanding television documentary, catches up with her in the northern town of Piura. She looks after more than 30 children, who would otherwise be at the mercy of crime, disease and terrorism. She is a kindly but firm disciplinarian who believes in education and self-help. Now 72 she has a team to take over when she can no longer manage, but only wishes she had started sooner
11.45 Film: The Andromeda Strain (1970). Adaptation of the novel by Michael Crichton in which scientists battle to neutralise a deadly strain of virus present in a small American town, knowing that the least infection will cause their laboratory to self-destruct. Detailed and effective science fiction thriller, which somewhat labours the point about the dangers of scientific research. Arthur Hill and David Wayne head a cast which avoids star names. Directed by Robert Wise, who also made *The Sound of Music.*
2.15am Videofashion. The importance of accessories
2.40 America's Top Ten
3.10 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz hosted by Martin Roberts
3.40 The Channon & Ball Video Show. Mick Channon and Alan Ball, the former England internationals, present another helping of football nostalgia
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newsreels from 1941
5.00 Nashville Swing Tom Bresh and Myrna Lorrie host the country music show with guest Gail Davies (r)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Relaxing scenes accompanied by soothing music
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 News summary
12.05 The Parliament Programme. Sue Cameron presents interviews and reports from both Houses
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service introduced by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. American educational programme for the very young
2.00 Film: Mother Wore Tights (1947). The Betty Grable season continues with this likeable family musical about the life and times of two vaudevillians, played by Grable and Dan Dailey. The entertaining song-book includes the Oscar-nominated "You Do". Anne Baxter narrates as the couple's grown-up daughter. Directed by Walter Lang
4.00 Hot Pots: The Woodworkers — But Can You Put It in the Dishwasher? The series about traditional arts and crafts looks at making practical wooden objects (r)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts another round in the words and numbers game. With Nigel Rees in the dictionary corner
5.00 The Adventures of TinTin. The final episode of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Elizabeth Michael Glaser has Aids and her two children were born with the disease. Tragically, her daughter recently died from the virus, and it is likely that her son will also die. Elizabeth and her husband, former *Starsky and Hutch* star Paul, talk about coping with Aids in a hostile society
6.00 The Wonder Years. Emmy award-winning comedy series about Kevin Arnold's (Fred Savage) memories of growing up in Sixties America (r)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Graydon Carter, editor of *Spy* magazine, and actor Brian Protheroe
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext)
7.50 Party Political Comment from an SDP politician. Followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. More drama with the residents of the Liverpudlian cul-de-sac. (Teletext)
8.30 Dispatches. The inside story of how the government decided to enter the ERM and how the present recession is directly related to that decision
9.15 Short and Curlies: Duck. Mini-drama about ten-year-old Charlotte (Marisa Dunlop) who thinks her parents (Frances Barber and Jim Carter) are behaving like children (r) (Teletext)
9.30 Free For All. Single parent Sue Friend claims that government legislation which sets out to help single women track down absent fathers is not as fair as it sounds. Fireman Vaughan Thomas is concerned about lack of fire safety provisions for passengers in the Channel tunnel
10.00 The Golden Girls. Comedy with the Miami matrons. Rose (Betty White) becomes paranoid about safety after a burglary and Dorothy (Bea Arthur) suggests she should see a psychiatrist (r). (Teletext)
10.30 Vic Reeves Big Night Out. Mr Reeves remembers punk rock, gives advice on aromatherapy and ponders over meat and veg in his own indomitable style
11.00 The Very Bits of Absolutely. Highlights of the anarchic Scottish comedy show. Featuring a bid from the village of Stoneybridge to host the 1996 Olympics and Denzil's wife claiming that she is 17 years pregnant (r)



Former lovers: Kristin Scott Thomas and Albert Finney (11.35pm)

11.35 The Endless Game. A second showing for Bryan Forbes's two-part spy thriller, which had a mixed reception the first time round. A former British Intelligence agent is murdered in an old people's home. Her former colleague and lover, Alec Hillsden (Albert Finney), is determined to find the killer.. The strong cast includes George Segal, Ian Holm, Anthony Quayle, Kristin Scott Thomas and Nanette Newman (r). Ends at 1.25am

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Anglia News 11.45 The Equalizer 12.45am Ski Tips 1.15 Quiz Night 1.45 Film: The Strange and Deadly Occurrence 3.15 Raw Power 4.15 Fifty Years On 4.35 Farming Diary 5.00-5.30 Nashville Swing

BORDER
As London except: 1.50pm Sons and Daughters 2.20-2.50 Scottish Women 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Wednesday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.45 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.15am Jake and the Fatman 1.10 Donahue 2.05 Video View 2.30 film: The Adventurers 4.40 ZZ Top 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

CENTRAL
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Central News 11.50 Film: Final Jeopardy 1.30 Donahue 2.20 Fantasy 3.20 Pick of the Week 3.50 An Invitation to Remember: Donald Sinden 4.20-5.30 Jobfinder '91

GRAMPIAN
As London except: 1.50pm Sons and Daughters 2.20-2.50 Far Na Dullaig 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 North Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbuster 11.45 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.15 Jake and the Fatman 1.10 Donahue 2.05 Video View 2.30 Film: The Adventurers 4.40 ZZ Top 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

GRANADA
As London except: 6.30pm-7.00 Granada Tonight 11.45 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.15 Jake and the Fatman 1.10 Donahue 2.05 Video View 2.30 Film: The Adventurers 4.40 ZZ Top 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.50pm-2.00 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.45 Friday the 13th 12.40 America's Top Ten 1.10 Donahue 2.05 Schimanski 3.45 The Climax Blues Band 4.45 An Invitation to Remember: Donald Sinden 5.10-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 11.45-12.40am Championship Boxing

TSW
As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Farmhouse Kitchen 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.45 The Making of Dances with Wolves 12.15 Jake and the Fatman 1.10 Donahue 2.05 Video View 2.30 Film: The Adventurers 4.35 ZZ Top 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

TVS
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.45 The Equalizer 12.40 Film: Asylum 2.20 Donahue 3.15 Night Heat 4.10 Extra Dimensions 5.00-5.30 America's Top Ten

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Up Country 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.25-7.00 Ark on the Move 11.45 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.15 Jake and the Fatman 1.05 Donahue 2.05 Video View 2.30 Film: The Adventurers 4.35 ZZ Top 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Who's The Boss? 5.00-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.45 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.15 Jake and the Fatman 1.05 Donahue 2.05 Video View 2.30 Film: The Adventurers 4.35 In Profile 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 11.45 The Sweeney 12.45 Dirty Dancing 1.15 In the Heat of the Night 2.10 Quiz Night 2.40 How Was It For You? 3.10 Comedy Tonight 3.35 Music Box 4.35-5.30 Jobfinder.

S4C
Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Ysgolion 12.00 Sbectel 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Vintage 2.30 Ice Skating 3.30 Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Heno 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Hel Straeon 7.30 Ar Y Tir 8.00 Y *Byd Ar Bedwar* 8.30 Newyddion 9.00 Sbectrwm 9.30 Now You're Talking 9.55 Film: Tenue de Soiree 11.35 The Endless Game 1.25am Diwedd.

RTE 1
Starts: 12.15pm Dail Report 12.30 Check Up 1.00 News 1.35 Blizzard's Wizard Woodwork 2.05 Sam 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Quinoscopios 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 7.00 No 1 7.35 MacGyver 8.30 Look Here 9.00 News 9.30 Bibi 10.30 Wednesday Report: Tough Love 11.05 Bergerac 12.30 Racing from Cheltenham 12.30 News 12.40 Close.

NETWORK 2
Starts: 1.20pm Bosco 1.50 Racing from Cheltenham 4.20 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00 News 8.05 This Is Your Life 8.35 Who's the Boss? 9.00 Cheers 9.30 News followed by Diamonds 10.25 Nighthawks 11.05 News 11.25 Dail Report

RADIO 3

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather; News
7.00 Morning Concert: Bach (Cello Suite No 1 in G: Pierre Fournier); Mozart (Divertimento in B flat, K 137: Berlin PO under von Karajan)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): John Field (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat: John O'Conor; New Irish CO under Janos Fürst); Dowland (Semper Dowland Semper Dolens: Paul O'Dette, lute); Purcell (Come, Ye Sons of Art, Ode for the Birthday of Queen Mary: Soloists; Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra; Equale Brass Ensemble under Gardiner)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: J.S. Bach (Oboe d'amore Concerto in A, BWV 1055; Cantata No 127, Herr Jesu Christ wahr' Mensch und Gott; Trio Sonata No 3 in D minor; Contrapunctus 9, Art of Fugue)
9.35 Midweek Choice. Haydn (Symphony No 79 in F: Philharmonia Hungarica under Antal Dorati); Saint-Saëns (Rapsodie d'Auvergne, Op 73: RPO under Previn, with Jean-Philippe Collard, piano); Pleyel (Trio in G for flute, clarinet, bassoon: Jean-Pierre Rampal, Jacques Lancelot, Paul Hongne); Verdi (Ai nobili, di; perdonate ... a un core, Sicilian Vespers, Act 4: Paris Conservatoire Orchestra under Rescigno); arr Barbirolli (An Elizabethan Suite: BBC SO under the arranger); Vaughan Williams (Dona Nobis Pacem: LPO Choir; LPO under Thomson)
11.20 BBC Welsh SO under Owain Arwel Hughes, with Philip Fowke, piano, performs Sibelius (Karelia Suite, Op 11); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16; Peer Gynt Suite No 1); Sibelius (Symphony No 5 in E flat, Op 82)
1.00 News
1.05 Concert Hall: Live from Broadcasting House, London. Schubert Ensemble of London performs Mahler (Quartet Movement in A minor); Brahms (Piano Quartet in G minor, Op 25) 2.05 Record Review (r)
3.15 Vintage Years: From the Fifties, songs and arias by Russian composers, recorded by the Soviet mezzo-soprano Zara Dolukhanova
4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from Blackburn Cathedral
5.00 Music from Latvia
●CHOICE: The unusual combination of accordion, clarinet, viola, violin, double bass, bassoon and soprano sax, partly explains the *frisson* you might experience listening to the Jumprava Folk Band in the first of two programmes of Baltic dance tunes. Other contributory factors are the sudden shifts from exquisite tenderness (the lullaby "Pull, Pull, My Little Mouse") to hip-swinging vivacity (the waltz "A Slight Breeze"), and the seamless stitching together of both styles within the same song that celebrates the winter solstice. Every one of the seven instrumentalists sounds suspiciously like a fine musician
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure, with Fritz Spiegl
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear, with Robert Hewison
7.30 Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra under Jean Lamon performs Corelli (Concerto grosso in F, Op 6 No 9); Geminiani (Concerto grosso in D, Op 2 No 5); Vivaldi (Concerti in E minor, RV 134; in A, RV 159; in C, RV 117 and in F minor, RV 143); Handel (Concerto grosso in D minor, Op 6 No 10); Vivaldi (Concerto in D for four violins, Op 3 No 1), incl 8.15 Interval Reading (r)
8.55 What Should Be Done about the Guilty? The fragile new democracies of eastern Europe are having to decide who should be held responsible for the crimes of the past (r)
9.40 Late Haydn and Brahms: The pianist Ruth Geiger plays Haydn (Sonata in E flat, H XVI 49); Brahms (Six Pieces, Op 118)
10.25 Music in Our Time: Franco Donatoni (Ave: Renaud François, piccolo, Gérard Pérotin, glockenspiel, Jacqueline Méfano, celesta; L'ultima sera: Ensemble 2E2M under Paul Méfano, with Anne Bartelloni, mezzo); Duo pour Bruno: SO of RAI Turin under José Ramon Encinar)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Debussy (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek
10.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time (r)
10.30 Morning Story: What Became of Jenny? by Mary Scott. Read by Imogen Stubbs
10.45 Daily Service (s)
11.00 News; File on 4 (r)
11.42 Profile: A radio portrait in conversation, recollection and anecdote
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Debbie Thrower. A report on the effect of the new dental contract on patients
12.25pm Blandings: Lord Emsworth Grows a Beard. The second of six short stories by P.G. Wodehouse (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Women's Hour: includes an interview with Serena Sutcliffe, the new director of Sotheby's wine department; a discussion on women who are 40 and over and single; and an item on women in trade unions
3.00 News; Canterbury Tales
● CHOICE: This is filleted Chaucer, lovingly sliced by a master chef, served with a spicy sauce (you will not hear a saucier programme on BBC radio this week) and with the helpings sensibly spaced out over four weeks so as not to cause us flatulence. Adapter Colin Haydn Evans has opted for four tales, starting today with the Pardoner's in which three sots foolishly attempt to draw Death's sting. Steve Hodson is an ingratiatingly helpful Chaucer, Simon Carter a plausible Pardoner, and Robert Eddison a Bergmanesque Death. Next week, it's the Wife of Bath's turn (s)
3.47 Enquire Within 4.00 News
4.05 End of a Line: Guide to the Sands. In the second of four programmes, Paul Heiney walks along the shifting sands of Morecambe Bay
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of the films *Awakenings*, starring Robert De Niro, and *American Friends*, directed by and starring Michael Palin; and reports on the John Llewellyn Rhys book awards and the Spring Loaded dance festival (s)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News; Financial Report
6.30 Slightly Foxed: The well-read quiz with bookish guests. Gill Pyrah is in the chair (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Age to Age: Barry Cunliffe, John Miller and Brian Gear consider why the past 25 years of African development have proved to be so disappointing (r)
7.45 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts (r)
8.15 A Perspective for Living: In the fifth of six programmes on personal bereavement, Bel Mooney talks to Chris Patten, MP, about how he was affected by the death of his mother (s)
8.45 In Business: Prophets of Change. To avoid sinking, big businesses are being forced to swim with the tide and implement change. Peter Day reports on how change is put into practice and what it can mean (s)
9.15 Kaleidoscope (s) (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Brother of the More Famous Jack, by Barbara Trapido. Read by Cheryl Kennedy (3 of 11)
11.00 Murder Most Foul: Sheer Plod, by John Scotney. Nick Ross presents the fifth of six true murder cases from the past. Norman Jones plays Chief Inspector Chapman of Scotland Yard, whose sound detective work helped to discover the identity of a woman's body found in the River Lea in Luton in 1943 (s)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m, FM 94.9, World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.50 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 Here's Lucy 10.30 The Young *Doctors* 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 McHale's Navy 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Anything for Money 8.00 "V" 9.00 Equal Justice 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 The Hitchhiker 11.00 Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
News on the hour.
5.00am Newswatch 6.00 Sunrise 9.00 Sunrise 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Roving Reporter 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 Dayline 12.30pm NBC Today 1.30 NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Prime Minister's *Question* Time 4.30 Roving Reporter 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Roving Reporter 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC News 12.30am CBS News 1.30 NBC News 2.30 CBS News 3.30 NBC News 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY MOVIES
● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 Breaking Away (1979): Four boys take part in a bicycle race in their last summer together after leaving high school
12.00 A Man and a Woman (1966): Amiable French romance between widow Anouk Aimee and widower Jean-Louis Trintignant
2.00pm A Man and a Woman — Twenty Years On (1986): Anouk Aimee is now a film producer, while Jean-Louis Trintignant is a racing car driver
4.00 Dr Who and the Daleks (1965): Peter Cushing rushes to the aid of the peaceful Thals, who are being exterminated by the Daleks
6.00 One Crazy Summer (1986): John Cusack finds inspiration for his poetry when he becomes involved with Demi Moore
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Getting It Right (1989): Comedy about the sexual awakening of a 31-year-old virgin
9.40 At the Pictures
10.00 The Battle of the Blockbusters: Viewers can vote between either Red Heat (1988) A Soviet and a Chicago cop (Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Belushi) team up to catch a Russian drug dealer, or Robocop (1987): Injured cop Peter Weller is transformed into the future of law enforcement
11.45 Manhunter (1986) William Peterson stars as a cop who can establish psychic links with criminals
1.45am Howling IV — The Original Nightmare (1988) A writer (Romy Windsor) is plagued by a series of disturbing visions
4.00 The Blue Iguana (1988): A bounty hunter travels to Mexico to recover $20 million in contraband money. Ends at 5.30

EUROSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 The DJ Kat Show 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 British Formula 3 Motor Racing 8.30 World Figure Skating Championships 10.00 Freestyle Skiing 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Handball: *Lady's* World Championships 12.00 Big Wheels 12.30pm World Figure Skating Championships 4.30 World Circus Championships 5.00 World Cup Skiing 5.30 Transworld Sport 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 World Figure Skating Championships 8.00 The Ford Ski Report 9.00 Ringside 10.30 World Figure Skating Championships 12.00 Eurosport News 12.30am One Day Cricket Highlights 1.30 British Touring Cars 1990 Season

SCREENSPORT
● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Euro PGA Volvo Tour 8.00 Spanish Football Highlights 8.30 Fight Night at the Forum 10.00 Stop-Rhythmic/Artistic World Cup Gymnastics 11.00 Ten Pin Bowling 12.15pm Go 1.15 German Rally Champs 1.45 Moto News 2.15 Hippodrome FR Racing 2.45 US Pro Ski Tour Giant Slalom 3.30 US Pro Boxing 5.00 Stop-World of Champs 6.00 US PGA Honda Classic 8.00 German Rally Champs 8.30 Spanish Football Highlights 9.00 Motorsport World Rally Champ 10.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 12.00 Speedway Ice Racing

MTV
● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Great American Gameshows 11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 Slim Cooking 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 What's New 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Afternoon Cinema: Better Days 3.55 Tea Break 4.05 Phyllis 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.50pm The Great McGinty (1940, b/w): Spoof of American politics in which a tramp becomes a state governor
3.15 The Movie Show
3.45 The Dove (1974) The true story of a 16-year-old boy's (Joseph Bottoms) journey round the world in a 24ft sloop
5.30 The Movie Show
6.00 The Karate Kid II (1986): A teenage martial arts hero travels to Japan with his wise mentor. Starring Ralph Macchio
8.00 Willow (1988). A swashbuckling adventurer and an unassuming dwarf team up to defeat a wicked queen. Starring Val Kilmer and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer
10.00 Bat 21 (1988) The true story of the rescue of a fighter pilot shot down behind Vietcong lines. Starring Gene Hackman and Danny Glover
11.45 Deathwish III (1985): Charles Bronson returns as the lone vigilante
1.25am Christine Cromwell: In Vino Veritas: A long fermenting feud between two wine-making brothers comes to a head. Starring Jaclyn Smith. Ends at 3.05

THE SPORTS CHANNEL
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.00pm Racing Today 1.30 Live One Day International Cricket 7.45 Live Scottish FA Cup Football 10.00 Live One Day International Cricket 10.30 Torque 11.00 Racing Today 12.00 One Day International Cricket 1.00am Scottish FA Cup Football

THE POWER STATION
● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary King 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 The Man Ezeke Sunshine Show 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester: The Early Show 6.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 3.55 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour party 4.00 Gerald Harper 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Pasadena Roof Orchestra (r) 7.30 Squeezing Round the World: The world of accordion, melodeon and concertina music (5 of 6) 8.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 9.00 Nigel Ogden: The Organist Entertains 9.30 The French Had a Song for it: Philip Bacon concludes his potted history of French popular song 10.00 Martin Kelner 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.35 Bill Rennells with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News; Sport 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 This Family Business, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News, Sport 12.30pm Education Matters 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r) 2.20 Racing: The second day of the Cheltenham Festival (2.50) Queen Mother Champion Chase, (3.30) Coral Golden Hurdle; (4.05) Sun Alliance Chase 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 The Toby Man. A story by Dick King Smith (3 of 5) 7.35 Children in Romania: Thirty-five young people from Northern Ireland travel to Romania to extend the hand of friendship (r) 8.05 Champion Sport, with Jon Champion. Coverage of today's football, including any FA Cup quarter-final replays 9.30 Earshot, incl 10.00 Sport 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.36 News in German: Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.58 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours: News Summary and Financial News 7.30 Development '91 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Business Matters 8.30 Just a Minute 9.00 News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 Country Style 9.30 Financial News: Sports Roundup 9.45 Images of Britain 10.01 Omnibus 10.30 Jazz for the Asking 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 New Ideas 12.35 Give Us Our Daily Bread 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News; 24 Hours 2.00 News, Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: The Life and Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin 2.45 Business Matters 3.00 News 3.15 As We Forgive 3.30 Pigs Have Wings 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Assignment 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 On Stage: The Cure 9.45 Recording of the Week 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.09 Financial News 11.15 Cooking the Books 11.30 Multitrack 2 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Pigs Have Wings 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Waveguide 1.40 Book Choice 1.45 The Farming World 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Assignment 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 Ned Sherrin's Counterpoint 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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PETER TRIEVNOR

Clean sweeps: chimney technicians, as they are now called, wearing Victorian master sweeps' attire at Weston-super-Mare yesterday for their first European conference

Judge's decision may aid Lebanon hostages

By DAVID YOUNG AND MICHAEL KNIPE

A DECISION by a judge at the Old Bailey yesterday to withdraw charges of conspiracy to commit arson against an Iranian student should improve the prospects of the British hostages in Lebanon being released.

The Iranian government has made it clear that they see a linkage between the case and the continued incarceration of Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jack Mann, the British hostages held by extremist Muslim fundamentalists in Lebanon. Sayed Khareghani, the Iranian chargé d'affaires, was in the public gallery as Judge Kenneth Richardson QC announced that the charges against Merhad Kokabi, aged 33, were to be withdrawn.

The Iranian who had been studying for a science doctorate at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology had denied any involvement in a series of arson and bomb attacks on bookshops which had been selling Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*. He was held in custody awaiting trial for 15 months.

The judge said he hoped "nothing would stand in the way" of Mr Kokabi's deportation. He said the evidence in the case against him was "formidable" but because defence witnesses from Iran had refused to attend his trial it would not be a fair one. The court heard that nine Iranians feared they would be locked up by the authorities if they came to this country.

The judge added that it was clear that if Mr Kokabi was not involved in the plot he was "closely linked" to the terrorist organisation that carried out the bombings. Mr Richardson said: "The fair administration of justice is more important than any one individual case. My ruling means that the defendant is no longer in jeopardy concerning these charges."

Mr Kokabi's original Old Bailey trial was halted in February because the Gulf war had made it difficult to get defence witnesses from Iran. The government of Iran protested to Britain over the charges and demanded his release. Demonstrations have been staged outside the British embassy in Tehran. Sources in Whitehall said the withdrawal of the charges was a matter for the judiciary.

Charge-capping threat faces 17 councils

Continued from page 1

which is run by a minority Tory administration. The remaining 13 councils are Labour led, including the London borough of Lambeth which on Monday set Britain's highest poll tax at £590.25.

The borough has until Sunday night to send details of its £315.40 million budget to the environment department, a process which was delayed yesterday by a one-day strike of 5,000 council staff.

Although Lambeth plans to shed 600 jobs as part of a £20 million package of cuts, its budget is still £8.3 million above government capping limits. It hopes to win similar dispensation to that granted last year to Brent, Southwark and Wigan. The three Labour-led councils argued successfully that their capping limits should be raised. Joan Twelves, leader of Lambeth council, said after the budget had been approved on the casting vote of the mayor that the council believed it had a strong case.

Like Lambeth, Greenwich and Doncaster councils face the prospect of being capped again. Barnsley, Basildon, Bristol, Ipswich, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Norwich, Reading, Stoke-on-Trent and Wirral all face capping for the first time.

Car perk will survive levy

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BIG tax increases on "perk" cars expected in next week's Budget are unlikely to stem the growing numbers of company-owned vehicles in Britain, which has the largest number of company cars in Europe, according to a report by car lease firms.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is widely expected to levy higher taxes on beneficiaries of company cars, especially on those who do not have to use their vehicle as part of their job but accept a car only as a perk.

A joint study by the Monks Partnership and Lease Plan UK says that although most European companies give their company executives a car, as well as to the majority of their sales and marketing directors and sales representatives, few match Britain in the numbers of perk cars available. British companies are using the car as an attraction and an addition to salaries to beat the shortage of skilled staff and top management personnel.

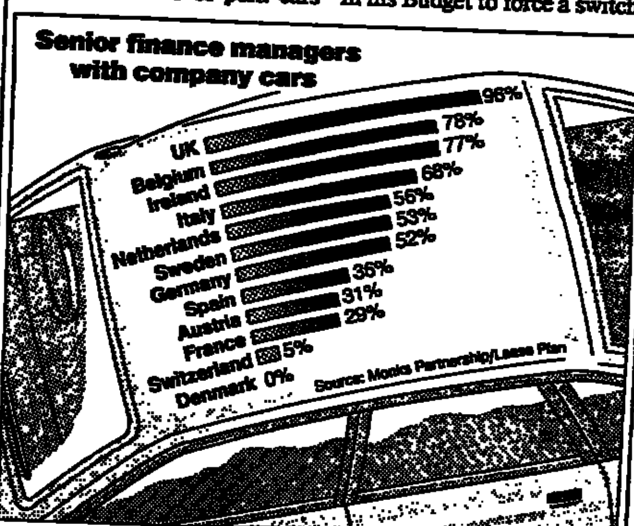
The study shows that the numbers of senior finance managers receiving a company car, acknowledged as not necessary for their jobs, as 96 per cent in Britain, compared with only 5 per cent in Switzerland. In Germany 52 per cent of finance managers are given a company car, while in Italy the figure is 68 per cent and France 29 per cent. In Spain it is 36 per cent.

So deeply ingrained is the company car in British company policy on pay and remuneration that Monks and Lease Plan believe that the Chancellor would need to levy huge increases in tax charges in his Budget to force a switch to cash payments. Norman Donkin, Lease Plan's managing director, estimated that it could cost up to £5,400 to offer a sales representative a salary and mileage deal instead of using a basic company-owned vehicle.

He added: "That sort of amount makes it difficult for companies to buy out company car users, although further increases in tax rates for workers who actually need their cars may encourage them towards looking at ways of running their own cars instead of using a company vehicle."

☐ Aston Martin, the luxury car maker, based at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, yesterday announced 85 redundancies and a cut in production because of the current economic recession. The move will reduce the workforce to 450 and mean that production would be cut from five to six cars a week to just over four cars.

Senior finance managers with company cars



Source: Monks Partnership/Lease Plan

Political sketch

Are you sitting comfortably?

"Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet"

Miss Emma Nicholson (C, Devon W & Torridge) was wearing a primrose skirt with matching yellow shoes, a delicate green and cream patterned blouse, and a little white jacket. She danced into the chamber yesterday like a spring flower and sat down.

"In came a spider and sat down beside her"

Richard Holt (C, Langbaurgh) occupied the adjacent seat. A round man with a round face, a quick temper and a sharp tongue, Mr Holt bore an expression of lip-smacking malice, as might a creature which had just swallowed an exceptionally juicy bluebottle.

Miss Nicholson seemed all unaware of danger and patted Mr Holt's shoulder with friendly innocence. They had both come to hear "education questions" to the secretary of state, Kenneth Clarke. Did they know that problems in the nursery were to feature prominently? Jonathan Sayeed (C, Bristol E) was to ask for "a statement on reporting by schools to parents of seven-year-olds".

First though, Emma and Richard had to sit through an ill-tempered scrap about funding for science research, provoked by the Liberals' Archy Kirkwood. Kirkwood was mild, but within moments Andrew Smith (for Labour) was shouting about "devastating cuts", "disgrace", etc, while (for the Tories) Alan Howarth was chanting "absolutely no question of a decline in British science ... superb quality ... leading edge ... absolutely outstanding world class quality ..."

Scientists tell us that not only is the big bang still echoing around the universe, but every sound, every movement, must needs reverberate into infinity. Even as you read this, somewhere past Betelgeuse "superb quality" and "leading edge" hurtle towards the outer reaches of our galaxy, while "devastating cuts" bounce between Saturn and Jupiter.

Back in SW1, Tim Eggar, a minister, was telling Emma, Richard and others that "we very much hope that all schools will have an active homework policy which involves parents." Jack Straw (Labour's spokesman) was telling tales on the secretary of state ("he hasn't visited a single local government school"), and Kenneth was protesting that he'd only been appointed just before the Christmas hols.

But you are waiting to hear how the nursery tale ends?

Then I must confess that, having built you up to expect something exciting, I know exactly how John Major is feeling about his review of the poll tax.

Nothing came of Miss Nicholson's brush with Mr Holt. I aroused your hopes and now send you away unsatisfied. And the prime minister, who has brought us to fever-pitch as to the nature of the thing he says he is going to unveil, stood yesterday at the dispatch box repeating (four times) that we should "know shortly" what it was, and experiencing the sinking inward feeling that each time he tells the nation to contain itself he only adds to the disappointment when it learns that the answer is an expensive lemon.

Neil Kinnock realises this. As Mr Major stands on the stage in his magician's cloak, holding the top hat, the Labour leader urges the audience onwards: "Show us the rabbit!"

He did so yesterday. "Why is the prime minister so coy?" he asked, urging Mr Major to "make up his mind". Four times the PM told us to wait just a little longer. No rabbit, eh? Come on, John: I've confessed that my nursery rhyme goes nowhere, so spit it out, mate: nor does yours.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Fear of martial law in Yugoslavia

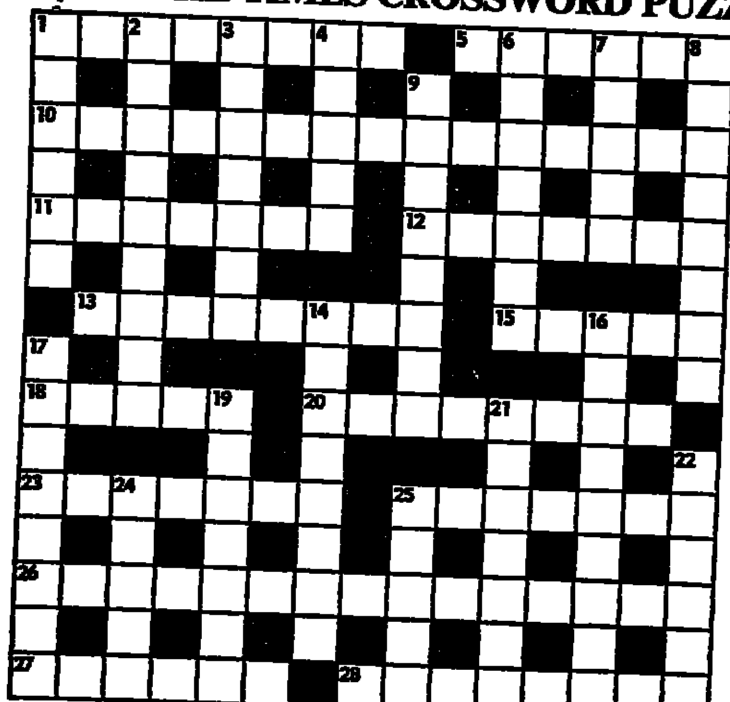
Continued from page 1

Mr Milosevic to suspend individual and civic liberties. But the generals may well be seeking even more extensive, nationwide powers.

As Serbian opposition leaders stepped up their pressure on Mr Milosevic, it was by no means clear yesterday that the army would continue to support him. The protest movement is spreading well beyond the ranks of students and is now drawing in workers and intellectuals of all political hues. Radomir Saranovic, the culture minister, told the students that the head of television, Dusan Mitevic, and four of his management team had been forced to resign. But there was no sign yesterday that Mr Milosevic would give any serious ground to the protesters.

● **Aid warning:** The Yugoslav ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to be told of the government's "considerable concern at the heavy-handed treatment of demonstrators in Belgrade" (Michael Knipe writes). Michael Tait, assistant under secretary of state for Eastern Europe, warned Svetozar Rikanovic, the ambassador, that Western assistance sought by Yugoslavia depended on its continued progress towards democracy.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,552

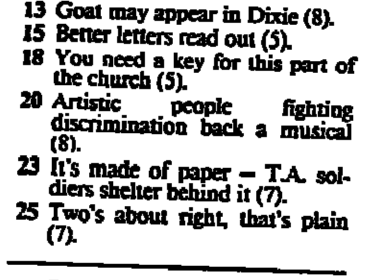


ACROSS
1 In the event, severe punishment (4,4).
5 Some part of the writer's art revealed by novelist (6).
10 Broke so hadn't paid many close friends (5,3,7).
11 Spikes protecting climbing boots (4-3).
12 Fish sailors first ensnared in lake (7).
13 Goat may appear in Dixie (8).
15 Better letters read out (5).
18 You need a key for this part of the church (5).
20 Artistic people fighting discrimination back a musical (8).
23 It's made of paper — T.A. soldiers shelter behind it (7).
25 Two's about right, that's plain (7).
26 Imprisoned frequently, I am finally free, almost too late (2,3,4,2,4).
27 I'm narcissistic, so I get made up (6).
28 Come a purler, and fail to achieve the desired effect (4,4).

DOWN
1 Fred is involved with this crowd in Huddersfield (6).
2 A way of serving potatoes and fish (4,5).
3 Shaw's saint, not a sound writer, makes a bloomer (7).
4 Many in America are without... (5).
6 ...a thing, a little bit penniless (7).
7 Judge in German city (5).
8 Daisy enters city from the west (8).
9 On one occasion, when about to whine, lots of money appeared (8).
14 A mixture of things in Manhattan perhaps (8).
16 Guy meets right doll in magazine feature (5,4).
17 Perhaps I could be blue (8).
19 Word that is unambiguous (7).
21 Crying, having finally got a reprimand (7).
22 Fellow in first class order (6).
24 Proportion of house given up by Nelson (5).
25 Real imp, they say, before 6 (5).

Concise crossword, page 19

Solution to Puzzle No 18,551



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 25 per cent of the competitors at the 1991 Leeds regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

TEF
a. A tanner's peg
b. Sawdust
c. An Ethiopian cereal grass

TANGUN
a. Tibetan piebald pony
b. A Chinese war lord
c. An early blunderbuss

VIBRISSA
a. An essential oil
b. A nostril hair
c. A type of brick-bonding

FREMITUS
a. Fast heart beat
b. A dull roar
c. Terror

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

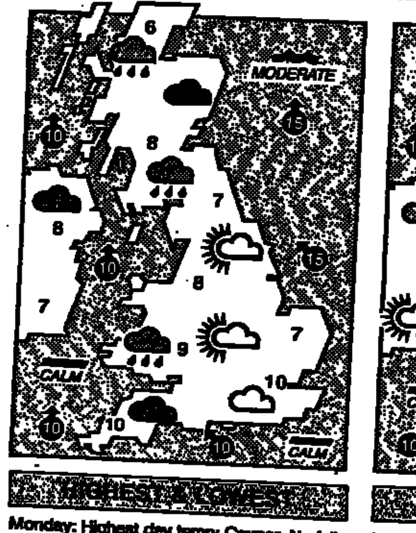
National traffic and roundworks

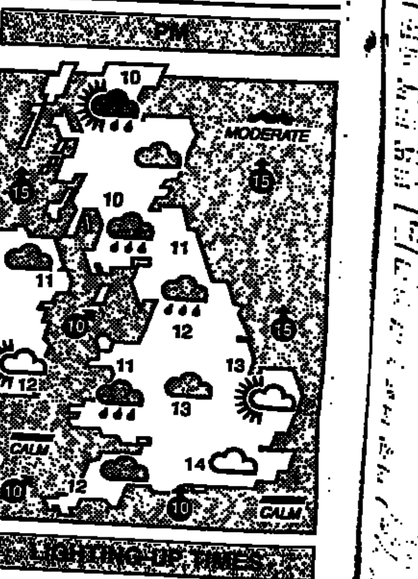
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Wales, western and northern parts of England will be cloudy with rain at times but clearing during the afternoon. The rest of England will be misty in places at first, but staying generally dry with some bright intervals. Northern Ireland and Scotland will start cloudy with any rain clearing later, although showery weather will return from the West. A mild day everywhere. Outlook: brighter with showers or longer periods of rain spreading across all areas.





ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Majorca	15	59	s
Akrotiri	18	61	c	Malaga	16	61	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Malta	17	63	f
Algiers	23	73	f	Melb'rne	16	61	c
Amst'dm	14	57	c	Mexico C*	24	75	s
Athens	11	52	c	Miami*	22	72	s
Bahrain	19	66	s	Milan	13	55	s
Barbads*	29	84	c	Montreal*	-6	21	sn
Barcelna	12	54	fg	Moscow	0	32	c
Belgrade	11	52	s	Munich	9	48	s
Berlin	10	50	c	Nairobi	26	79	s
Bermuda*	15	59	c	Naples	15	59	c
Biarritz	19	66	f	N York*	2	36	s
Borde'x	17	63	s	Nice	15	59	f
Brussels	15	59	f	Oslo	3	37	c
Budapst	13	55	s	Paris	15	59	s
B Aires*	26	79	s	Peking	0	32	sn
Cairo	22	72	f	Perth	31	88	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Prague	8	46	c
C'blanca	16	61	c	Reykjavik	2	36	c
Chicago*	7	45	f	Rhodes	13	55	f
Ch'church	17	63	f	Rio de J	28	82	s
Cologne	15	59	s	Riyadh	22	72	f
C'phagn	8	46	c	Rome	14	57	r
Corfu	15	59	s	Salzburg	14	57	s
Dublin	10	50	r	S F'risco*	11	52	s
Dubrovnik	16	61	s	Santiago*	29	84	s
Faro	15	59	c	S Paulo*	19	66	c
Florence	16	61	f	Seoul	8	46	s
Frankfurt	12	54	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Funchal	19	66	s	St'kholm	3	37	c
Geneva	10	50	s	Strasb'rg	9	48	s
Gibraltar	16	61	c	Sydney	19	66	c
Helsinki	1	34	c	Tangier	15	59	r
Hong K	21	70	c	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Innsbrck	14	57	s	Tenerife	21	70	f
Istanbul	6	43	c	Tokyo	11	52	c
Jeddah	28	82	s	Toronto*	-4	25	s
Jo'burg*	25	77	c	Tunis	17	63	s
Karachi	27	81	s	Valencia	16	61	f
L Palmas	23	73	s	Vanc'ver*	4	39	c
Le Tquet	14	57	f	Venice	14	57	s
Lisbon	15	59	f	Vienna	11	52	c
Locarno	12	54	c	Warsaw	10	50	c
L Angels*	14	57	s	Wash'ton*	7	45	s
Luxembg	11	52	s	Wel'nton	16	61	s
Luxor	28	82	s	Zurich	8	46	c
Madrid	13	55	f				

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	.01	7	45	fog
Anglesey	-	.07	13	55	drizzle
Aviemore	0.4	-	13	55	cloudy
Belfast	-	.13	12	54	rain
Birmingham	-	-	13	55	cloudy
Blackpool	-	-	14	57	cloudy
Bognor Regis	1.8	.06	10	50	drizzle
Brighton	2.1	.03	13	55	rain
Bristol	-	.02	14	57	dull
Cardiff	-	.06	11	52	fog
Edinburgh	-	.01	9	48	dull
Exmouth	-	.24	10	50	fog
Folkestone	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Glasgow	-	.12	9	48	rain
Hastings	0.1	-	13	55	cloudy
Jersey	1.2	.06	17	63	cloudy
Kinloss	0.1	-	15	59	cloudy
Leeds	-	-	14	57	cloudy
Littlehampton	2.1	.04	13	55	drizzle
London	0.1	-	14	57	cloudy
Lowestoft	-	-	11	52	dull
Manchester	-	-	13	55	cloudy
Minehead	-	-	13	55	dull
Newcastle	-	-	12	54	cloudy
Nottingham	-	.03	12	54	drizzle
Penzance	-	.87	10	50	rain
Poole	-	.12	11	52	drizzle
Scarborough	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Scilly Isles	-	.50	10	50	rain
Shanklin	0.1	.12	11	52	drizzle
Southend	-	-	12	54	cloudy
St. Ives	-	.89	12	54	rain
Teignmouth	-	.30	10	50	rain
Tenby	-	.19	10	50	drizzle
Torquay	-	.24	11	52	rain
Weymouth	-	.26	10	50	fog
Wick	-	.01	8	46	rain

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.50	2.35
Austria Sch	21.55	20.15
Belgium Fr	63.00	59.00
Canada $	2.265	2.115
Denmark Kr	11.72	11.02
Finland Mkk	7.40	6.95
France Fr	10.35	9.70
Germany Dm	3.055	2.865
Greece Dr	328	308
Hong Kong $	15.20	14.20
Ireland Pt	1.145	1.075
Italy Lira	2285	2145
Japan Yen	269.25	252.25
Netherlands Gld	3.44	3.23
Norway Kr	11.92	11.22
Portugal Esc	264.75	248.75
South Africa Rd	5.65	5.05
Spain Pta	189.25	176.25
Sweden Kr	11.28	10.60
Switzerland Fr	2.655	2.495
Turkey Lira	6800	5800
USA $	1.95	1.83
Yugoslavia Dnr	34	25

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.12 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Cromer, Norfolk, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Jersey, Channel Islands, 0.14 in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, near St Andrews, and Kinloss, Moray Firth, 8.6 hr.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	11	52	c	Guernsey	10	50	c
B'rmgham	12	54	c	Inverness	9	48	f
Blackpool	12	54	c	Jersey	13	55	f
Bristol	12	54	c	London	12	54	c

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 6.1 pm to 6.18 am
Bristol 6.11 pm to 6.28 am
Edinburgh 6.11 pm to 6.32 am
Manchester 6.8 pm to 6.27 am
Penzance 6.23 pm to 6.39 am

Sun rises: 6.21 am
Sun sets: 6.1 pm
Moon rises 5.5 am
Moon sets 2.56 pm

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times to 01.10 hrs and 01 40hrs

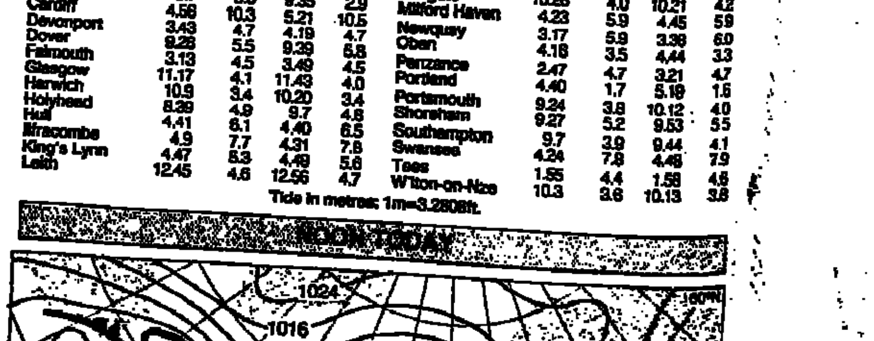
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge			12.14	6.0
Aberdeen	11.32	3.6		
Avonmouth	5.11	11.1	5.36	11.3
Belfast	9.7	3.0	9.35	2.9
Cardiff	4.56	10.3	5.21	10.5
Devonport	3.43	4.7	4.19	4.7
Dover	9.28	5.5	9.39	5.8
Falmouth	3.13	4.5	3.49	4.5
Glasgow	11.17	4.1	11.43	4.0
Harwich	10.9	3.4	10.20	3.4
Holyhead	8.39	4.9	9.7	4.8
Hull	4.41	6.1	4.40	6.5
Ilfracombe	4.9	7.7	4.31	7.8
King's Lynn	4.47	5.3	4.49	5.6
Leith	12.45	4.6	12.56	4.7

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	9.28	8.1	9.53	8.2
Lowestoft	8.15	2.0	7.37	2.1
Margate	10.26	4.0	10.21	4.2
Milford Haven	4.23	5.9	4.45	5.9
Newquay	3.17	5.9	3.38	6.0
Oban	4.18	3.5	4.44	3.3
Penzance	2.47	4.7	3.21	4.7
Portland	4.40	1.7	5.19	1.6
Portsmouth	9.24	3.8	10.12	4.0
Shoreham	9.27	5.2	9.53	5.5
Southampton	9.7	3.9	9.44	4.1
Swansea	4.24	7.8	4.48	7.9
Tees	1.55	4.4	1.58	4.6
W'ton-on-Nze	10.3	3.6	10.13	3.8

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

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Business Editor
John Bell

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 1991

Goodison warning on bids

SIR Nicholas Goodison, the executive chairman of the Trustee Savings Bank, has warned the European Commission and Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, that plans to regulate company takeovers will fail unless made more flexible.

He told MEPs in Brussels: "The (EC) directive threatens the three key features of the UK's uniquely effective form of regulation — flexibility, certainty and speed."

Sir Nicholas, a former head of the International Stock Exchange, said that Britain and other European governments would never countenance rigid rules on takeover procedures which failed to keep abreast of the market.

Sixty three per cent of large British companies would sooner have a merger investigated by the MMC than by the EC, which only 24 per cent would prefer, according to a survey by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant.

EC law needed, page 27

Next plans an adjournment

Next, the retail group whose Grattan mail order business is at the centre of a bid battle, is to propose an adjournment of today's extraordinary general meeting after protests from shareholders that they have not been given enough time to assess the bids for Grattan.

Shareholders had been asked to vote at today's meeting on the £151 million bid from Otto-Versand of Germany, which Next is recommending over the £155 million offer from its rival Sears. Both bids are now unconditional. Otto's had been conditional on EC approval. Comment, page 27

Glynwed drops

Glynwed International reports a fall in pre-tax profits from £93.3 million to £70.3 million for 1990, but is holding the final dividend at 7.5p, making an unchanged 11.65p.

Tempus, page 27

De Beers dips

De Beers suffered a 14.9 per cent fall in attributable profit last year to R2.44 billion (£503 million). A total dividend of 285.3 cents (280 cents) is declared. Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8575 (+0.0065)
German mark
2.9219 (-0.0023)
Exchange index
93.2 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1947.8 (-8.4)
FT-SE 100
2454.8 (-4.3)
New York Dow Jones
*2938.86 (-0.50)**
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
26727.42 (+58.05)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Blagden	191½p (+18p)
Redland	662½p (+7p)
G Wimpey	208½p (+10p)
Schroders	785p (+11p)
Guinness	872p (+18p)
SA Breweries	815p (+55p)
Barlow Rand	722½p (+70p)
Beauford	117½p (+12p)
Castings	124½p (+8p)
Kelsey Ind	480p (+17p)
Marina Devs	330p (+10p)
MAM	630p (+22p)
FALLS:	
Costain	224p (-9p)
RMC Group	711p (-9p)
Scot & Newcastle	393½p (-7p)
Christies Intl	229p (-17p)
Compass Group	440½p (-9p)
Reuters	885½p (-14p)
Glynwed	264p (-15p)
Inchcape	311p (-14p)

Closing Prices...Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 13%
3-month Interbank 12¼-12 9/16%
3-month eligible bills:11 25/32-11¾%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 5 15/16%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.86-5.85%*
30-year bonds 96¼-96 9/16*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.8575	£: $1.8585*
£: DM2.9219	$: DM1.5715*
£: SwFr2.5327	$: SwFr1.3620*
£: FFr9.9609	$: FFr5.3545*
£: Yen253.38	$: Yen136.23*
£: Index:93.2	$: Index:62.9
ECU £0.702018	SDR £0.747619
£: ECU1.424464	£: SDR1.337579

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $363.95 pm-$364.25
close $364.50-365.00 (£196.25-196.75)
New York:
Comex $365.85-366.35*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) .... $18.25 bbl ($18.35)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 130.2 January (1985=100)
* Denotes latest trading price

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Markets disappointed by rise in factory price inflation

By Colin Narbrough
Economics Correspondent

OFFICIAL figures showing a surprisingly large rise in February factory gate prices aroused concern that underlying inflation may not be slowing as fast as expected. Economists were surprised and disappointed by the producer prices data, but felt they would not prevent Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, from cutting interest rates soon, probably on Budget day.

Despite the deep recession, manufacturers raised their output prices for the home market by a provisional 0.5 per cent in February, more than twice the forecast increase. This followed the 1.2 per cent jump in January, the biggest monthly rise for nearly 10 years, which had been widely seen as a freak, if disturbing, figure.

The February move held the annual price rise steady at 6.3 per cent, disappointing financial markets, which had been seeking a slowdown to 6.2 per cent for the Bank of England's preferred measure of inflation. Excluding food, drink and tobacco, the rate actually rose from 6.5 per cent to 6.7 per cent, an eight-year high.

Gwyn Hacche, economist at James Capel, saw the figures as "very disappointing", but noted that they did not tie in well with the Confederation of British Industry survey which showed manufacturers at their most pessimistic since the Seventies about being able to raise prices. "This could be hard-pressed firms making a last-ditch effort to protect their profit margins," he said, although he believes the depth of the recession will not let rises be sustained.

The Treasury agreed the data were disappointing, but reaffirmed its optimism about the future downward trend for inflation. "There are signs from a wide range of indicators that inflationary pressures are abating rapidly," a spokesman said.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, concurred that all the evidence suggests that big rises in factory gate price will not persist, and that this inflation measure was now at about its peak. By year-end, he expects the annual rate to have slowed to 4.5 to 5.0 per cent.

Prices manufacturers paid for raw materials and fuel were more encouraging, showing a larger-than-expected seasonally adjusted fall of 1.0 per cent in February after a revised 0.3 per cent drop in January, largely reflecting Gulf-affected oil and energy prices. The provisional figures showed an unadjusted fall of 2.2 per cent in February, bringing the annual decline to 2.4 per cent from 2.8 per cent in February. The market expected a 1.7 per cent decline.

The money markets displayed increased optimism about a further cut in the base rate, despite the authorities' attempts to signal no change. The three-month interbank rate ended 1/16 point lower at 12¼ against a base rate of 13 per cent. The pound showed little response, as foreign exchange dealers focused on the fresh efforts by 10 central banks, led by the Bundesbank, to restrain the dollar, after waves of heavy intervention on Monday.

But the American currency edged up in the afternoon, shrugging off the bid to halt its advance. At the London close, the dollar was slightly down on its overnight level at DM1.5710, but above the DM1.5680 at which intervention began yesterday. The dollar ended half a yen lower at Y136.30.

Sterling was affected by the dollar-mark battle, closing at DM2.9203 after DM2.9242 on Monday, though gaining over half a cent against the dollar to end at $1.8572.

High premium as power shares soar

By Martin Waller

SHARES in National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generators, raced to high premiums as dealings started on the stock market, prompted by a wave of buying, apparently on behalf of continental institutions.

Dealers said Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, was bidding aggressively throughout the afternoon. There was also strong interest from Japanese institutions.

By the end of trading, National Power part-paid shares were worth 137½p and PowerGen 137p, against the 100p price at which they were sold to the public.

A source at Goldman Sachs' head office in New York, who did not wish to be named, denied any stake-building on behalf of any one client, from continental Europe or otherwise, and described his company's activities on the London market as "in the normal course of business".

Dealers in London, however, insisted the interest in the shares was from the Continent.

In the tender that followed the public offer last week, several institutions, thought to be French, showed themselves willing to pay well in excess of 130p for shares in the companies.

The final prices surprised analysts, not least because PowerGen, the smaller of the two and regarded as the leanest and fittest, had been expected to go to the higher premium.

PowerGen opened higher, at 125p against 120½p for National Power, and by the end of the first half-hour of trading was maintaining an equivalent lead, although both shares were a couple of pence easier.

The prices then started to climb rapidly and ended the day at their highest levels, at which stage about 190 million, or about 15 per cent of the shares issued, had gone through the market.

The most optimistic forecasts had been for premiums of 25 to 30 per cent on the part-paid shares. In the event, an investor who paid the minimum £300 first instalment saw his or her investment worth almost £412 by the end of the day.

One analyst, who did not wish to be named, said prices approaching 140p were "unsupportable" and British institutions were, therefore, rushing to unload, given that at that level the shares were yielding less than the market average.

He added: "If a stake is being built, one has to say they are taking a real flier, if they are foreigners, on what the government is doing with the final 40 per cent. If they are forced to sell, the price is going to drop like a stone."

The government has retained a 40 per cent interest in the two generators for at least two years.

Among the putative continental stake-builders named by dealers were Électricité de France and its associate, Framatome, the French builder of nuclear power stations, and GEC-Alsthom, the Franco-British consortium, but the speculation was subsequently denied.

Also mentioned were Veba, the German engineer, and Tractebel, of Belgium, both of which have long been suspected of harbouring designs on the British power industry.

The privatisation of the generators will prove the swansong of John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who announced last night that he would not be standing at the next election.

On the dealing floor at James Capel, the main government broker, yesterday afternoon, he greeted the flotation as "a textbook privatisation" and the then premium offered on the shares, about 10 per cent on a fully-paid basis, as "very fair".

The sale of the two companies and of the 12 regional distributors last year had raised a total of £12 billion for the taxpayer.

Mr Wakeham commented: "That's considerably more than a lot of people thought we would get a few months ago. Indeed, there are a lot of people who didn't think we would get anything at all."

DES JENSON

Share check: John Wakeham and Graham Wood, a James Capel dealer, monitor yesterday's trading in the generators

Opec to cut back output by 5%

By Martin Barrow

THE Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to reduce oil output to 22.3 million barrels per day for the second quarter of 1991 and reaffirmed $21 a barrel as its reference price.

The 5 per cent reduction in output is considered an interim measure until the cartel's next full ministerial meeting on June 4 and was agreed on the second day of talks in Geneva, despite objections from Iran and Algeria.

In London, oil analysts considered the reductions to be modest, warning that the market still faces major oversupply during the spring quarter, when the United States and northwest Europe traditionally offload oil stocks left over from the winter.

They forecast little impact on oil prices. In London, North Sea Brent for delivery in April rose 13 cents to $18.50 a barrel. In New York, American oil futures were down 11 cents at $18.88.

Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest producer, will reduce output by 450,000 barrels to 8.03 million bpd, still substantially above its pre-war quota of just 5.4 million bpd. The Saudis, who face an estimated $50 billion in war costs, resisted calls for more substantial cuts.

Wimpey's profits dive 68%

A WORLDWIDE slump in housebuilding profits has been blamed for the 68 per cent fall in profits at George Wimpey, the housebuilder and contractor (Matthew Bond writes).

In the year to end-December, the company made pre-tax profits of £43.3 million, compared with £135 million in 1989. In Britain, Wimpey has been cutting some house prices by 30 per cent. Wimpey said the fall in its business of selling homes in Britain and America made the biggest impact on profits.

Despite the sharp fall, Wimpey is paying an unchanged final dividend of 6.5p, to give an unchanged but uncovered total distribution of 10.5p. Earnings per share were 8.3p. With attributable profits of just £4.1 million, paying the dividend required a £26.1 million transfer from reserves.

Wimpey also announced that Mike Dowdy, the group's finance director, will leave the company after the annual meeting in April.

Tempus, page 27

Standard bank reduces payout after bad debts

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

STANDARD Chartered, the international bank, has cut its final dividend by two thirds to 7.5p due to a high tax charge, heavy bad debt provisions and a fall in trading profits.

The moves follows last week's cut in dividend by Midland Bank, making Standard the second leading British bank to reduce its payout since the Depression.

Rodney Galpin, chairman and chief executive of Standard, said his directors believed it was important to set the dividend at a level that did not harm the Bank's earning potential. He added: "In future, we will pursue a progressive dividend policy linked to earnings."

Mr Galpin intends to relinquish one of his roles at the bank, a move to be timed "very carefully". He said he prefers the role of a chairman.

Standard cut its dividend despite a 124 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £150 million last year. Profits in 1989 were hit by an exceptional £165 million write-off to cover Third World debts. The bank suffered bad debt provisions of £175 million (£168 million). Low profits in Britain boosted the tax rate to 78 per cent. The bank suffered a £13 million deficit for the year.

Profits in Europe fell 82 per cent to £19.3 million due to a £108 million bad debt provision. Standard Chartered was one of the leading bankers to Polly Peck International.

The bank lost £11.3 million in North America and £34.6 million in Australia. Profits in Standard's Asia Pacific region rose 40 per cent to £153 million. Overall trading profits before bad debts fell 20 per cent to £313 million.

Galpin: progressive policy

Comment, page 27

BA faces first 'real competition' from Americans

Airlines in dogfight over Atlantic

From Philip Robinson in New York

AMERICAN airlines plan a dogfight over transatlantic fares this summer. American Airlines and United Air Lines, the two largest and toughest American carriers, will operate out of Heathrow within four months, competing with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic on routes between London and New York.

The competition was sparked by Monday's agreement between British and American officials allowing the sale of the six London routes of Pan Am to United and of six Heathrow routes of Trans World Airlines to American.

Lord King, chairman of BA, has given warning that the move will hit BA profits. A spokesman for American, which has started a heavy advertising campaign in Britain, said: "The consumer won't lose out on this. Pricing across the Atlantic will continue to be very competitive this summer. The reason British Airways are screaming is that this is the first time for the past several years that they have had any real competition."

Virgin set the pace this week with a £99 one-way flight from Gatwick to New York. Richard Branson, the chairman, has promised an across-the-board cut of 15 per cent on transatlantic routes. Pan Am's most recent New York to London return fare was $249, a figure matched by BA and TWA, which has cut the price of first class and business class by between 40 and 60 per cent. United will take over Pan Am routes by March 27 at the latest.

Lee Howard, chief executive of the Airline Economics consultancy, said: "There'll be all kinds of special offers from United and American. I expect fares to be much cheaper than last year."

American still needs approval from the American Justice Department to complete the TWA deal, but expects to be operating to and from Heathrow in July. A twice daily service from Chicago to Gatwick will start on June 1.

Frequency of American services to London is expected to rise sharply. Although American and United are restricted to the numbers agreed for TWA and Pan Am, neither of the latter had been using their full quotas.

The passenger-swapping and facilities sharing agreement between BA and United is unresolved. When it struck the Pan Am deal five months ago, United said it hoped the swap agreement would continue.

Closer reading of the Anglo-American agreement has caused concern over the American market. Mr Howard said no-one had considered the precedents that have been set. He added: "The most significant is the ability of BA to fly into the US from Europe, fly within the US and on again to destinations outside."

Stock market, page 28

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Deadlines loom in ILG sale of assets

By Harvey Elliott
AIR CORRESPONDENT

TIME was running out last night for the sale of Air Europe, Intasun and other companies within the failed International Leisure Group.

Administrators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock said that they were working "round the clock" in an attempt to sell the companies as going concerns. But Tim Hayward, senior partner, admitted that prospects for the sale of the travel group were now "looking less likely".

"There is still a chance but it is going to be extremely difficult to find a buyer for all these companies. I am not going to throw in the towel until all avenues have been fully explored," he said.

"The first deadline comes on Wednesday night when the travel companies' licences expire and the second next Monday night when Air Europe could lose its licence." After that there would be no alternative but to place all the companies in liquidation.

Other tour operators have already snapped up most of the existing and potential ILG package holiday-makers. At the same time, leasing companies had repossessed most of Air Europe's fleet of modern jets, leaving the administrators little to sell except Gatwick slots, which are now of little value due to reduced demand, a route network that is already being bid for by rival airlines, and the tainted brand names.

Tens of millions of pounds are thought to be owed to the Civil Aviation Authority for navigation and air traffic control services and to BAA for landing fees.

British airlines were showing little interest in the groups. For example, Michael Bishop, British Midland's chief, firmly ruled out any offer. The only hopes may now lie either with a foreign airline that wants to take on the existing Air Europe network or perhaps a businessman who harbours ideas of owning his own airline.

Spanish hoteliers were meeting last night to try to work out just how much they are owed by ILG companies and when and if they will be paid.

"Naturally we are very worried," said a spokesman for the Spanish National Tourist Board. "We have been told that vouchers for rooms booked from March 8 will be honoured but we do not know when hoteliers will be paid for those who stayed with them before that."

It is likely therefore, that they, with coach operators, caterers, tour guides and many others who relied on ILG for their livelihoods, will have to join the list of creditors.

Capel loses £30.3m as Hongkong Bank slides

By Neil Bennett, banking correspondent

JAMES Capel, the London stockbroker, lost £30.3 million last year, its third deficit in four years.

The losses were revealed by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the firm's parent, as it reported a 33 per cent slump in attributable profits to HK$3.10 billion (£207 million) because of heavy losses in America and Australia.

Capel's largest losses occurred in its euroconvertible trading arm, which was closed last September. The firm, which made a pre-tax profit of £358,000 in 1989, lost money in its fixed interest business, also partly shut down, and wrote down an investment in Allied Provincial Securities, the private client stockbroker.

Capel also suffered reorganisation costs as it reduced its staff numbers by 300 to 2,300.

David Dugdale, Capel's deputy chairman, said that without these, the firm's continuing business would have made a small profit in a very difficult year in equity trading.

William Purves, Hongkong Bank's chairman, said Capel's prospects were excellent, and he hoped its good position in the equity market would produce a better performance this year.

Mr Purves said Hongkong Bank's figures were "very disappointing and in my opinion unsatisfactory". In January, he gave warning that profits in 1990 would be substantially lower. The dividend for the year is 39 cents a share (2.61p), up 2 per cent.

The bank's profits were hit by a $296 million loss, compared with a $13.9 million profit in 1989, at Marine Midland, its American subsidiary. This was caused by provisions against property lending in New York state.

Hongkong Bank of Australia made a Aus$273 million (£112 million) loss, after a significant loss in 1989. Part of the loss was due to a Aus$79 million write-off of a deferred tax asset, while the bank also provided against its loans to Alan Bond's companies.

Mr Purves said the bank's corporate lending in Britain was hit by bad debt provisions. These are said to include £30 million set aside for British & Commonwealth, the collapsed financial services group.

The bank's core operations in the Far East did well by contrast, although it had to write off loans to some regional Chinese authorities on hotel construction projects.

Profits at the British Bank of the Middle East rose £400,000 to £31.1 million despite the effects of the Gulf war in the region.

The hardest-hit part of BBME's business was in Jordan, where the economy suffered the effects of the sanctions against Iraq.

Room for more profits on top: David Matthews, chairman of the Plaxton Group

Plaxton halved to £4.2m

By Jonathan Prynn

A DISASTROUS year for the coach and bus manufacturing division has resulted in more than halved 1990 pre-tax profits at Plaxton Group.

The company, which also has 28 motor dealerships, made £4.2 million in the 12 months to end December against £8.7 million in 1989. Plaxton Coach and Bus made a £1.2 million loss compared with a £6.7 million profit previously on turnover up 2 per cent at £108.3 million.

David Matthews, the chairman, gave a warning that 1991 sales for the coach and bus division are likely to be the worst on record. "It is unlikely that a complete recovery may be expected until well into 1992," he said.

Reeve Burgess, the mini and midi bus business, also suffered a sharp fall in demand but began trading profitably again in the last quarter. By contrast, profits in the motor division were up 30 per cent to £6.1 million on sales of £276.8 million, an 8 per cent increase.

However, Mr Matthews said there were sharp falls in new car sales in the last quarter. The December year on year 27.6 per cent fall in registrations was the largest on record. A final 1.5p dividend makes a 4.5p payout for the year, compared with 8.5p in 1989.

BM rationalises Blackwood Hodge

By Our City Staff

AN AGGRESSIVE rationalisation programme is under way at BM Group, which acquired Blackwood Hodge, a fellow construction plant company, last year for £54 million.

Blackwood's British operations have been cut to three depots, and a 21-acre factory and head office site is soon to be sold for £4.15 million. Sales have been completed of Blackwood's Nigerian and Zimbabwean subsidiaries and talks are proceeding for the disposal of the remaining African operations, said Roger Shute, the BM chairman.

The Far Eastern businesses are also to be sold, he said. The group workforce has been reduced from 6,800 to 5,600 at the end of February.

Mr Shute said that an annualised £15.4 million of overhead costs had already been taken out of Blackwood at a one-off cost of £11 million, of which £8 million fell into the last reporting period. Blackwood broke even during its five-week contribution to group profits in the first half, he said.

Blackwood will continue to report separate figures because of three outstanding quoted preference share issues. The shareholders are not receiving dividends because of a "substantial deficit" on Blackwood's distributable reserves. The elimination of the deficit is likely to take "some years", Mr Shute said.

As a result of the acquisition, BM's gearing has increased from nil to 95 per cent at the December 31 half-year end. Mr Shute said he hoped this would be reduced to 70 per cent by the full year end.

BM's pre-tax profits for the six month period were up by 43 per cent to £13.5 million from £9.4 million. The interim dividend is increased by 33 per cent to 1.6p. Further cost reductions and rationalisation will enable BM Group "to continue to increase earnings per share", Mr Shute added.

Hartstone seeks £45m for US buys

HARTSTONE, the handbags and hosiery group, is paying up to $127.5 million for Etienne Aigner and the Michael Stevens group, two American leather firms, which made pre-tax profits of $17 million on 1990 sales of $129 million.

Both are owned by Charterhouse funds, which will receive an initial $70 million cash and $20 million new Hartstone shares. A one for one rights issue underwritten at 155p by Schroders will raise £45 million. Schroders has commitments for 30 per cent of the issue. The shares were recently halted at 186p.

Hartstone has forecast pre-tax profits for this year ending March 31 of not less than £7.3 million (£3.2 million) and a total dividend of not less than 3.25p (62.5 per cent increase).

Losses jump to £7.48m at S&F

By Gillian Bowditch

STRONG & Fisher, the leather group, has revealed just how badly it needed its recent restructuring, which left Hillsdown Holdings with a 70 per cent stake. S&F made a pre-tax loss of £7.48 million in the six months to December compared with a £847,000 loss last time.

Sales fell from £47.2 million to £30.1 million and the loss per share is 29.4p compared with 6.4p. There is no interim dividend. The main reason for the loss was an exceptional debit of £6.28 million for the write-down of stocks, bad debts and other provisions. There is an extraordinary credit of £1.59 million for the profit on disposal of investments minus rationalisation costs.

Richard Strong has resigned as managing director of the group and Hugh Etheridge has stepped down as finance director. The group's balance sheet has been greatly strengthened by the reconstruction.

Michael Buswell, the chairman, said the substantial drop in sales was caused by the severe downturn in trade which affected all the company's markets. "During the latter part of 1990 skin prices continued to fall and a number of overseas customers had severe trading difficulties. This neccessitated substantial write-downs. Nineteen-ninety-one has commenced with one of the worst worldwide recessions to affect our industry for years. However, our strong cash position will enable us to withstand the ravages of the present climate," he said.

Resigned: Strong

NatPro slides on £37.2m provision

By Our banking correspondent

NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society has written off £37.2 million of its lending to housing associations. The provision was largely responsible for a 48 per cent slide in pre-tax profits last year to £51.1 million.

Profits were also hit by payoffs totalling £370,000 to the former chief executive and the marketing director, who left after the society abandoned its plans to convert to a public company. Despite the fall in profits, Richard Newton, the chairman, took a 24 per cent rise in salary to £56,000 last year.

NatPro was a leader in lending to housing associations. The business suffered badly last year when property prices fell. The society could not increase its lending to the associations to allow them to finish building the sites because the loans were no longer covered by the sites' value.

David O'Brien, the society's new chief executive, said the society had been forced to repossess about 110 of the 170 projects it lent to, and the £37.2 million provision covered the fall in their value. NatPro is completing some of the sites, and seeking buyers for the others.

Even before the provision, the society's profits were down 12 per cent to £88.3 million, due to high costs. The figures were restated to cover the contribution of subsidiaries. This was the second restatement in three years.

NatPro suffered a further £7.4 million in bad debt provisions on its traditional mortgage book, and bore the costs of a head office reorganisation.

Pulbrook names vote to serve writ

By Our City Staff

LLOYD'S names facing average losses of up to £400,000 each through their involvement with Pulbrook syndicate 90 have voted unanimously to serve a writ on the Merrett managing agency, Pulbrook's current owner.

About 150 names attended the first annual meeting of the Syndicate 90 1982 Names Association. About 90 proxy votes were also cast in favour of the action.

The writ must be served this week to fall within the one-year deadline since being issued.

The names allege negligence in the unclosed 1982 year of account by Pulbrook Underwriting Management and Winchester Bowring, the broker that placed the business, and negligence and breach of contract by eight members agents.

The claims relate to American asbestosis and pollution losses, which already total 205 per cent of the £17.5 million syndicate line. With 405 names on the syndicate, the average name has already lost £86,000. An additional 70 per cent cash call could follow soon if arbitration with Meacock, the reinsurer, goes against the syndicate.

The total losses are expected to rise to 600 per cent and, depending on the outcome of American court cases, could top 1,000 per cent over the next two to three years. In that event, the average name could face losses of more than £400,000.

At yesterday's meeting, names spoke of the hardship they are facing as a result of the massive cash calls. Names argue they would not have joined the syndicate if they had been properly informed of the potential losses resulting from asbestos-related claims, some of which date back to policies written in the Forties.

Merrett, which acquired Pulbrook from Stewart Wrightson in 1985, has said that it "considers that claims can be successfully defended".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Radio Clyde to merge with Radio Forth

RADIO Clyde, the USM-quoted radio station serving Glasgow, is merging with Radio Forth following a recommended all-share deal valuing the privately owned Edinburgh station at £6.32 million. The five-for-one share offer has been recommended by Radio Forth's board, and 70 per cent of shareholders have already accepted it.

The offer values each Radio Forth share at £12.43, representing a multiple of 16 times earnings for the year to September. Radio Forth shareholders will hold 28.5 per cent of the enlarged group. Despite lower advertising revenues, Radio Clyde stressed it is ungeared and will have substantial cash resources for expansion. The company will broadcast to all Scotland's major cities, while retaining existing local programming and local boards. A maintained interim dividend of 3.25p per Radio Clyde ordinary share is forecast.

GEC shares in contract

GEC Alsthom has won a £90 million turnkey contract to build a 240mw combined cycle gas turbine power station at Brigg, south Humberside, for Yorkshire Electricity Group. British Gas will supply the power station. The contract is the third awarded to GEC Alsthom, a joint venture between GEC and Alcatel of France, in the last 12 months.

Kerry raises profits 13%

KERRY Group, the Irish agricultural trading and dairy products group, lifted pre-tax profits by 12.9 per cent to Ir£19.3 million (£14.3 million) in the year to December. Group turnover advanced from Ir£560 million to Ir£585 million. Earnings per share climb 11 per cent to 12.6p. The final dividend is raised to 1.39p (1.33p), making 2.1p (2p).

Logica slips to £4.7m

LOGICA, the computer software house, saw pre-tax profits slip from £6.02 million to £4.72 million in its first half to December as a result of £1.8 million in losses from its American operations and the world economic slowdown. The interim dividend is raised, however, from 1.1p to 1.15p.

With half its revenue coming from outside Britain, any increase was depressed by the strength of sterling, but turnover still advanced by almost 5 per cent to £95.5 million.

Reshuffle at API Group

ADRIAN Missenden has resigned as managing director of API Group, the packaging to air conditioning maker, after a disagreement over strategy. The shares lost 8p to 106p. At the same time, Charles Rawlinson, API's chairman, who said he would retire during 1991, has decided to go now. Peter Armitage, the deputy chairman, becomes chairman.

Swiss deal in balance

OMNI Holding, the troubled Swiss investment company which is a 29 per cent shareholder in International Leisure Group, the British travel group, said its agreement to sell Adia, the Swiss employment agency, to ASKO Deutsche Kaufhaus and Swiss businessman Klaus Jacobs, could collapse if creditor banks refuse to cooperate.

Cala falls into loss

CALA, the Scottish housebuilder that diversified into English commercial property, reports a pre-tax loss of £4 million for the six months to end-December against a £3 million profit. The company blamed the losses on provisions against its commercial property developments in the south of England and against Cala Finance.

The interim dividend is held at 1.15p, reflecting the fact that the core activity — building homes in Scotland — is trading profitably. However, despite remedial action, second-half profits will not offset the first-half's losses.

Interest costs fail to halt Blagden

By Philip Pangalos

BLAGDEN Industries, the packaging, chemicals and protective equipment group, lifted pre-tax profits from £11.5 million to £13.3 million, despite a jump in interest costs.

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, advanced from £193.7 million to £218.1 million. Operating profits increased from £11.6 million to £15.3 million, although interest costs surged from £183,000 to £2.03 million.

Earnings per share are 19.6p (17.6p). The final dividend of 5p (4.9p), makes 9.5p (9.1p).

Tec Wilkinson, chairman and chief executive, relinquishes the latter role later this year to be succeeded by Cameron Smith, finance director.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	2,341	Cadbury	1,778	L&G	642	Royal Bnk	562
Alld-Lyons	1,617	CU	323	Lloyds	1,489	Royal Ins	776
Anglian	1,113	Courtaulds	396	Lonrho	1,722	Sainsbury	2,829
ASDA	2,295	Dalgety	173	Lucas	1,077	Scot & N	1,877
AB Foods	594	Enterprise	354	M&S	355	Sears	1,314
Argyll	3,274	Eurotunnel	1,053	Maxwell Cm	355	Severn Trnt	1,144
BAA	941	Fisons	2,913	MEPC	806	Shell	3,551
BET	4,823	Gen Acc	1,094	Midland	1,530	Smith & N	4,328
BTR	1,919	GEC	3,891	Nat West	3,819	SK Beech	657
BAT	1,779	Glaxo	1,636	N W Water	227	Sun Allnce	688
Barclays	3,475	Grand Met	5,401	P&O	658	Tarmac	1,405
Bass	1,166	GUS 'A'	268	Pearson	123	Tate Lyle	1,982
BICC	582	GRE	2,764	Pilkington	736	TSB	954
Bk Scotlnd	1,878	GKN	665	Prudential	4,625	Tesco	2,439
Blue Circle	2,053	Guinness	1,694	Racal	1,804	Thames Wtr	583
BOC	841	Hamm 'A'	46	Rk Hovis	1,340	Thorn EMI	210
Boots	2,560	Hanson	7,582	Rank	1,502	Trafalgar	1,682
Br Aero	1,536	H & C	495	R&C	229	THF	1,537
Br Airways	5,041	Hawker	329	Redland	428	Ultramar	744
Br Gas	12,236	Hillsdown	1,515	Reed	1,016	Unilever	1,832
Br Petrol	7,159	ICI	1,119	Reuters	4,506	United Bis	1,517
Br Steel	5,721	Kingfisher	979	RMC Gp	268	Wellcome	257
Br Telecm	8,264	Lasmo	751	RTZ	678	Whitbrd	1,267
Burmah Cst	404	Ladbroke	2,802	R-Royce	4,306	Wig Teape	772
C&W	2,025	Land Sec	787	Rothmn 'B'	89	Wills Cor	2,745

MAJOR INDICES

New York:
Dow Jones .... 2938.86 (–0.50)*
S&P Composite .... 372.38 (–0.58)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 26727.42 (+58.05)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 3658.07 (–10.96)
FT-SE Euro 100 .... 1085.23 (–0.17)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 92.1 (–0.2)
Sydney: AO .... 1429.4 (+5.5)
Frankfurt: DAX ...... 1571.61 (+5.83)
Brussels:
General .... 5816.48 (–32.56)
Paris: CAC .... 480.26 (–4.75)
Zurich: SKA Gen .... 551.1 (–1.6)

London:
FT.—A All-Share .... 1185.72 (–1.26)
FT.— "500" .... 1314.80 (–2.13)
FT. Gold Mines .... 145.8 (–1.3)
FT. Fixed interest .... 93.40 (–0.02)
FT. Govt Secs .... 85.01 (–0.24)
Bargains 43856
SEAQ Volume 838.4m
USM (Datastream) .... 131.53 (+0.82)

*Denotes latest trading price

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr (100p)	118
Brabant Res (165p)	134
CMW Group (30p)	48 +23
Castle Cairn (50p)	38
EFM Java Tst (50p)	39 +1
East German Inv	119
Eidos (100p)	63
Elonbrook	66 +1
Europe Energy	14
Faber Prest (175p)	129
Foreign & Col	50
Highcroft Inv	165
Invergordon (135p)	158 +1
Levercrest (108p)	69 +1
MMEC	2½
MMI (20p)	23½
Malaysia Capital	27½
Midland Radio	95
Pelican Gp (50p)	24
Proteus Intl (84p)	105 +5
Seton Healthcare	165
Smaller IT	81 –1
Stand Platform (225p)	171
Tr Euro Gwth (100p)	100
Trio Inv Tst	44
Utd Uniform	68
Unichem (100p)	147 –1
Wig Tpe App	226 –1

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

CRESTA HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.3m (£6.66m)
EPS: 9.1p (12.2p)
Div: 1.3p, mkg 2p (1.8p)
Sales:£36.6m (£47.1m)
Extraordinary items:Debit of £1.77m (surplus of £1.42m)

Profits decline due to discontinued activities. Company is raising £10.4m through a placing and open offer of 30.7m shares at 35p each. Final dividend will be paid on May 1. The board is confident that the momentum now established can be maintained.

CELESTION INDS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £951,000
EPS: 3.9p (LPS: 0.1p)
Div: 1.2p (1p)

Company made a pre-tax loss of £23,000 last time. Turnover grew to £41.5m (£36.6m). Extraordinary debit of £629,000.

EVEREST FOODS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.47m
EPS: 9.55p (4.65p)
Div: 2.2p (2p)

Profit last time £716,000. Board reports that the first half showed exceptional improvement. Second half started satisfactorily.

DOMESTIC & GENERAL
Pre-tax: £2.13m (£1.46m)
EPS: 19.85p (12.84p)
Div: 4.5p (3.5p)

Interim results. Turnover grew to £16.1m (£12m). Investment income rose 22% to £2.24m. Extraordinary debit of £139,000.

CMW GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £373,000
EPS: 11.9p (N/A)
Div: 1.63p, mkg 2.88p

Profit last time was £641,000. Extraordinary debit of £13,000. Turnover stood at £5.22m (£5.93m).

AMERICAN TRUST (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.63m (£6.39m)
EPS: 4.51p (5.16p)
Div: 3.25p, mkg 4.7p

Total dividend last time was 4.5p. Net asset value a share 161.8p (180.8p). Gross income declined to £6.56m (£7.27m).

PRECIOUS METALS (Int)
Pre-tax: £207,000
EPS: 1.21p (0.84p)
Div: Nil

Last time's pre-tax revenue was £155,000. Net asset value a share was 122.6p at end-January, compared with 212.5p last time.

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Next's not so small change

COMMENT

Next's beleaguered shareholders have won a small victory by persuading Sir David Wolfson, the chairman, and chief executive David Jones to propose an adjournment of today's extraordinary meeting where they were due to vote on the £151 million offer from OttoVersand for Grattan, Next's mail order company. In doing so they have put an end to the unseemly rush to push through Otto's bid in the face of a higher £155 million offer from Sears.

Shareholders have been bombarded with a series of offers and counter offers for Grattan. They, and the board, will now have time to assess them properly. At today's meeting they will also hear the board's reasons for recommending the lower of the two offers.

Shareholders will be told that the sale of Grattan is not a clean one and that distribution for Next Directory, the group's remaining mail order business, will continue to be serviced through the Grattan's warehouse in Listerhills. The board will tell shareholders that it would much rather have that crucial relationship with Otto, a privately owned German company that owns 9.9 per cent of Next and has the largest mail order business in Europe, than with Sears, which owns rival mail order group Freemans and is a direct competitor on the high street.

Apart from price, the terms of both offers are identical. That includes the terms of the contract for servicing Next Directory which have been loosely agreed with both Otto and Sears. The Next board is convinced that it is worth turning down £4 million to ensure that Grattan falls to Otto.

Mr Jones says this decision is not motivated by any dislike of Sears but by his belief that Otto will be in the best position to service the Directory. Sears will have the difficult job of merging Grattan with Freemans which could mean that the Directory becomes the poor relation.

But Next has no guarantee that Otto will service the Directory better than Sears. Indeed, Otto has offered nothing as tangible evidence of its goodwill such as service performance guarantees or a joint venture to expand Next Directory on the continent. Meanwhile, Sears chairman, Geoffrey Maitland Smith, says that if Mr Jones has any concerns about the level of service for the Directory, he need only present him with another contract.

The whole of Next is only valued at about £120 million. Grattan is the group's best asset and there will only be one chance to sell it. Next should be in a strong position to extract guarantees for the Next Directory from whoever wins the auction and shareholders should not have to take this on trust.

Next *is* proposing to sell Grattan for half of what it paid to buy it in 1986. Shareholders, who have been told by Next to expect losses this year of over £200 million, may believe that every £4 million counts.

Sub-standard

If only Rodney Galpin, Standard Chartered's chairman, had mustered the courage to cut the bank's dividend two years ago.

Standard has struggled under the weight of its 35p a share payout since 1986, when it was promised to shareholders in a last-ditch effort to fend off a bid from Lloyds Bank. Since then the bank has written off almost £1 billion in third world loans, and rarely generated the earnings to meet the £82 million commitment. The dividend has sapped reserves and created a heavy tax liability. Finally, a week after Midland led the way, Standard has owned up to investors that it has been living beyond its means.

The 43 per cent cut in the dividend to 20p, and the figures behind it, were as poor as the City feared. But there are signs that trading, after many false hopes, may finally be on the mend.

Mr Galpin had three objectives when he joined Standard in 1988. He needed to control costs, restore the bank's capital ratios, and improve its asset quality. He has succeeded on two counts while radical action is underway to achieve the third.

Standard costs rose less than 3 per cent last year, while its capital ratio, on the Basle definition, rose to 10.7 per cent, 2.7 points higher than the minimum standard. Currency movements, notablythe dollar's weakness, have helped along the way, but the bank's finances are on a solid footing. The loan book is now being tackled. In the past, Standard, like many competitors, went for headlong asset growth with scant regard for margins. Its reward last year was a bad debt provision of £174 million.

The extent of the reorganisation shows the depth of the problems. In Australia, Standard cut its total lending by 60 per cent to £232 million last year, while the fall in North America was 28 per cent. Mr Galpin has wisely decided that a medium-sized bank cannot compete in mainstream corporate lending in the developed world where competition is still fierce.

Instead, Standard is concentrating on its strengths, principally trade finance and treasury operations through its global network. The plan deserves to succeed; Standard has an unrivalled presence in most of the world's fastest-growing economies while other banks are reducing their overseas network to cut costs and asset books.

Mr Galpin likens the bank's results to spring turning towards summer. That is over-optimistic. Behind this wintry set of figures, however, there may be the hint of a thaw.

Pirelli's bid highlights need for EC takeover law

Proposals: Martin Bangemann, Commission vice-president

SHAREHOLDERS in Continental, the German tyre company, will decide at today's extraordinary meeting whether to accept a DM2 billion hostile proposition from Pirelli, its Italian competitor, which amounts to a reverse takeover bid.

They will almost certainly vote against Pirelli's merger proposal, but this will not mark the end of this extraordinary battle. Pirelli will be able to bounce back if shareholders decide in a separate vote to remove voting rights restrictions, which limit the share of total votes of any individual shareholder to 5 per cent. On this vote, the outcome is wide open.

The meeting will reinforce one important lesson: that the European Community needs some common takeover regulation. The absence of such rules brought about this perverse takeover battle in the first place.

In Germany, most companies have voting rights restricted to 5 per cent per shareholder. The effect of the restriction, although not its intention, is to prevent hostile takeover bids.

There is no simple answer to the voting rights controversy. Mere removal of the barrier is not a solution. While this would enable hostile bids to succeed, it would do so at an unacceptable cost to many ordinary shareholders.

Companies need not declare their stake until it reaches 25 per cent, and, furthermore, there is no level of shareholding that compulsorily triggers a bid. Pirelli would be able to build up a 25 per cent stake in secret and then increase the stake to 51 per cent stake either through private deals or open market operations. At no stage would it need to make a bid, leaving many shareholders as a minority group and their shares at a discount.

To make matters worse, shares in most German companies are in the form of bearer certificates, which do not reveal the name of the holder. This leaves company managements largely in ignorance of the identity of their shareholders.

In Britain, takeovers are regulated by the takeover code and company law, which force companies to declare their stake if it is over 3 per cent, and to make a full bid if the stake reaches 30 per cent. The object is to give all shareholders the choice to accept the offer or to remain, if necessary in a minority.

In 1989, Coopers & Lybrand, the British firm of accountants, prepared a report on behalf of the European Commission on the issue of harmonising company law. The report was critical of many continental practices, most of which are relevant to the Continental/Pirelli case, including voting rights restrictions, declaration and bid-triggering levels, two-tier boards, cross-shareholdings and the role of bankers as depositories, shareholders and directors.

Martin Bangemann, vice-president of the European Commission, embraced the findings of the report and last year suggested a series of 30 proposals aimed at ironing out some of the most serious imbalances.

The issue of takeovers is only one of many, regulated in a separate directive, which have yet to be approved by EC economics ministers.

The directive, closely based on the British takeover code, prescribes a maximum bid triggering level at 33 per cent, although countries are free to chose a lower ceiling, and governs issues such as bid timetables and policing.

There is a good chance that some agreement will be formalised during the year. Any hopes that this might create the so-called level-playing field are, however, wide of the mark.

Had that directive already been in force, and enforced in the case of Continental/Pirelli, some of the current controversies would not have arisen. Continental's management would not have been able to protect itself through voting restrictions, while Pirelli would have been forced to present its bid to shareholders. Even then, Pirelli's chances of eventually winning control, would not have been increased substantially because of Continental's two-tier board structure, staggered board appointments and the 75 per cent majority needed to dismiss directors. Although the Commission is trying to harmonise those elements of company law, agreement is not likely.

While the Germans are largely ignorant, and therefore flexible, in respect of takeover legislation, their position is much more entrenched when it comes to wider principle of company law.

Fundamental to German company law is *Mitbestimmung*, workers' participation, which guarantees employees 50 per cent of the seats on a supervisory board, although the shareholders' representatives have the casting vote on issues requiring a simple majority.

The most important issues, such as restructurings and changes in the management board, require a majority of 75 per cent. Attempts to reduce this to a simple majority would undermine the basic concept.

Germany is most unlikely to be prepared to compromise and will argue that if laws have to be harmonised, the change should happen on their terms. This, however, would be unacceptable to the British government.

Hence, progress towards European harmonisation will be limited and the situation will remain unsatisfactory. Even limited harmonisation, however, would have helped to remove some of the more extravagant tactics used by Continental and Pirelli in their absurd battle, and stop the same happening again.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business Correspondent

Wielding the axe helps to pay dividends at George Wimpey

TEMPUS

MIKE Dowdy, finance director of George Wimpey, may be moving on to pastures new but the financial controls he helped put in place will be around a lot longer.

Financial management was one of the few bright spots in figures otherwise dominated by a 38 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £43.3 million in the year to end-December.

Indeed, but for the strict financial controls imposed by Mr Dowdy and chairman Sir Clifford Chetwood, Wimpey would have been hard pushed to justify its £26 million dip into reserves to pay a maintained dividend of 10.5p.

As the recession worsened, the pair took a formidable axe to capital expenditure and working capital. Net capital expenditure dropped from £155 million in 1989 to a below-budget £96 million in 1990, while working capital fell £82 million. The result was a £48 million positive cashflow and an impressive subsequent reduction in net debt and gearing to £305 million and 48 per cent.

Sadly, the impact of the worldwide recession on Wimpey's trading activities cannot be ignored and are likely to do just as much damage this year.

Housebuilding was worst affected with worldwide completions dropping from 9,951 to 8,747. In Britain, Wimpey's housebuilding is still profitable, although margins on the 6,263 units it sold (down 828 on 1989) have been devastated. The company wrote down, at a cost of £32 million in provisions, the value of its 18,000 plot land bank to a level that restored gross margins to a 10 per cent minimum, although this was mitigated by £19 million of profits on land sales.

A housebuilding recovery will come, but too late for this financial year, which could also see a decline in the fortunes of contracting. This performed well in 1990, but not well enough to prevent a 56 per cent fall to £55.3 million in operating profits at the homes and contracting division.

New chief executive Joe Dwyer hopes to dampen the cyclical nature of Wimpey's profits by disposing of poorly performing assets. The commercial property portfolio, which fell in value by £36 million last year, tops his list.

Any profits from the sale of the office scheme in London's Little Britain are likely to come in 1992, so this year could see Wimpey making little profits progress. On a multiple of more than 20, the shares look expensive.

De Beers

DE BEERS, the diamond group, is flawed after turning out 1990 results that disheartened even its most faithful followers. Net attributable profits and earnings of the South African and non-South African parts are down for the first time in a decade.

De Beers resembles Siamese twins. De Beers Consolidated, which owns the South African assets, made R554 million (£114 million) against R657 million. Profits of Centenary, which operates the rest, fell from $898 million to $768 million. Equity accounted profits were also lower.

The pro forma combined results show net attributable profits at R2.87 billion against R2.44 billion, or down from $1.13 billion to $950 million.

De Beers recalls too well the investment damage of 1981 and 1982 when its dividend was cut on lower earnings, and for 1990 — at the expense of cover — it has managed to keep some faith with investors by nudging the dividend up a fraction. But a total South African payment of 285.3 cents against 280 cents, or American equivalent of 111.3 cents against 110.2 cents, is no compensation for inflation.

After a modest rise in 1990 rough diamond sales sold via the Central Selling Organisation, perhaps De Beers' results should not have shocked. But they did. Whatever the rights or wrongs of looking at the diamond account, few expected such a fall in diamond account trading margins which (in rands) eased from 27.7 per cent to 21.6 per cent — and to one of the lowest half yearly margins in years.

After the first two sights of 1991, disrupted by the Gulf war, rough diamond sales this year might already be $400 million down on 1990 levels, and many are braced for 1991 sales to dip below last year's $4.17 billion level.

Fundamentally, De Beers will survive. Its balance sheet remains strong with a net worth of $27.44 ($26.87 cents) a share. But the prospect of flat earnings and only a maintained dividend this year could knock the share price back below the £10 barrier before it starts to attract fresh interest. Yesterday, the shares stood at £12.25, down 75p, to yield 4.9 per cent on a prospective 9.1 times rating.

If the Siamese twins were to be split, then De Beers Centenary would run.

Glynwed

AS ONE analyst put it, the good news from Glynwed is that the dividend has been held. It is hard to find much else of comfort from 1990.

The plastics division, making a success out of repairing the world's crumbling water and gas infrastructure, made an effort, but the 17 per cent advance to £24.5 million at operating profit level included a first full year of the American Harrington business, and a maiden contribution from Wingfield in Australia.

Every other division turned down, with profits at tubes and fittings, where commission costs at the new copper tube mill claimed close to £3.5 million, and Canadian labour disputes drove Columbia International into the red, almost evaporating at £900,000 against £8.3 million.

Glynwed's fortunes are inextricably tied to the future of the British economy, still responsible for more than two thirds of the group's business. If interest rates continue to fall with some regularity, there is a chance that it may see the beginnings of a recovery towards the end of this year. But it will have a disastrous first half to make up for.

Thus year-end forecasts are for about £57.5 million pretax, though some fear it could be lower, to provide 1991 earnings of 18.5p a share. The upside is that when the recovery comes, it could be dramatic, and £75 million is now being pencilled in for 1992.

A longer recession would deepen concern over a balance sheet where borrowings appear to be higher than the reported year-end £92.3 million.

At 264p, on prospective multiples of 14.3 and 10.7 for 1990 and 1991, the shares are scarcely cheap, but will start to move on the first signs of the economy picking up.

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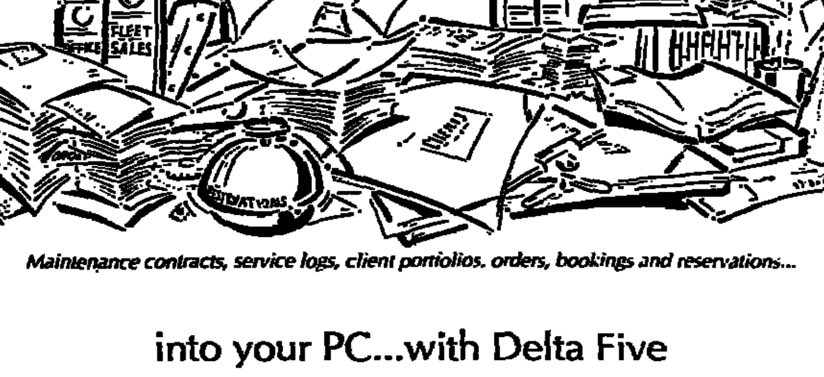

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TIMES 4

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Flying low in £3,000 circles

WORD that Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group was on the brink of collapse had financiers scurrying round in circles last week. At the heart of the action was IBA Group, the aircraft management company that had the task of impounding several Air Europe aircraft at Gatwick. Matters apparently came to a head at 2 am on Saturday, when IBA attempted to seize an Air Europe 757 en route from Orlando to Newcastle, and due to land at 7 am. Paul Villa, IBA's managing director, hired a Cessna Titan ten-seater twin — the only aircraft available at such short notice — at a cost of £3,000 and despatched technical director Laurie Hatcher to Newcastle to carry out the deed. "I put it on my Diners Club card," says the enterprising Villa, who finally saw Hatcher off at Gatwick at 5.30 am. But the story does not end there. Fog at Newcastle meant that the Cessna and its by now frantic passenger were put into a holding pattern above Tyneside, circling, as fate would have it, with the Air Europe plane in question. Both aircraft were eventually diverted to another airport. Which one? Gatwick.

Nervous numbers

TALK in the Square Mile that Lehman Brothers had quietly made 100 employees redundant at the weekend appears to have been premature. The rumours were circulating in the City yesterday, but the numbers being mentioned seem to have been exaggerated. A spokesman for the firm confirms that 18 back-office workers were asked to leave, but denies that the firm has a job-cutting programme. He says: "It was part of general cost reductions and no revenue producers were involved." It was, however, Lehman Brothers that started the trend in mass City job losses. The firm made 500 of its 1,500 staff redundant in the summer of 1987, before the crash. Talk of further trimming remains sensitive.

"I don't care what the pregnancy advice service says, Lord King says they should be banned from Heathrow"

Speculation that the building industry may reduce its contributions to Tory funds in protest at high interest rates could be out of date. Spotted in the visitors' gallery during prime minister's question time yesterday was Peter Drew, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, who confirmed that the company had given a mere £24,000 last year, well down on its 1989 contribution of £150,000. But Drew is thought to be more of a fan of Major's than Thatcher's and a larger cheque could be forthcoming.

Week in, week out

JOHN Spicer, the drinks analyst who resigned from Kleinwort Benson to join Warburg Securities, was allowed to vacate his desk this week, two months before his contract expires. Kleinwort agreed to Spicer's early release after last week securing the services of David Thompson, an up and coming brewery sector specialist despite being on the wrong side of 50. Thompson, made redundant by Laing & Cruickshank in December, had worked in the brewing and leisure industry for many years, mostly with Whitbread. "He has only worked in the City for seven years," says Brennan Hiorns, deputy managing director at Kleinwort and the man responsible for UK research, sales and market-making. Hiorns adds: "He was ranked seventh by Extel last year and thinks he would probably have been fifth this year." Spicer left the firm on Friday, after a one-week handover period. Kleinwort is now looking for a young, enthusiastic person with two or three years experience in drinks or an allied sector to work with Thompson.

CAROL LEONARD

HongkongBank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability

Results for 1990

The Directors announce that the profit for the year ended 31 December 1990 attributable to shareholders of the Bank was HK$3.096 million (1989: HK$4,774 million), a decrease of 35 per cent. The profit was arrived at after providing for taxation and after making transfers to inner reserves.

With the notable exceptions of Germany and Japan, world economic growth slowed during 1990, particularly in the United States. Inflationary pressures increased, particularly after the rise in oil prices following the crisis in the Gulf. The Asian economies, strongly dependent on the rest of the world, showed similar trends but still enjoyed good average growth rates.

On 25 January 1991, in its announcement of a second interim dividend of 26 cents per share, bringing dividends for 1990 as a whole to 39 cents per share (an increase of 2.1 per cent over 1989), the Board indicated that the group's results would reflect the downturn in the world economy and that the poor performance of some subsidiaries would have a material adverse impact on the group's results for 1990 so that profits would be substantially lower than for 1989.

In the United States Marine Midland Bank reported a loss of US$295.6 million, largely as a result of the need to make provisions against its commercial real estate portfolio in a market which remained weak. The effect of high interest rates and recession in Australia on the corporate sector, together with the write-off of a deferred tax asset of A$79 million in respect of previous years, resulted in a loss of A$273 million for HongkongBank of Australia. In the United Kingdom, the results of the Bank's own commercial banking business were adversely affected by the need to make provisions against the corporate loan portfolio.

By contrast, the Bank's traditional businesses in Asia performed well, and in some cases exceeded expectations. However, provisions were required against a number of loans to projects in the People's Republic of China. Although the Bank's domestic operations in Singapore had record results, the offshore unit was badly affected by exposures to a number of group clients in Australia. In Hong Kong, the economy grew slowly but loan demand remained steady and the Bank's operations in the territory achieved good results. Hang Seng Bank's profit increased by 20 per cent to HK$2.187.8 million. Despite the Gulf crisis both The British Bank of the Middle East (BBME) and its associate The Saudi British Bank performed satisfactorily. BBME recorded a profit of £31.1 million, compared with £30.7 million in 1989. Hongkong Bank of Canada had another good year, reporting after-tax profit of C$48.7 million for the year ended 31 October 1990, an increase of almost 40 per cent over 1989.

The performance of the group's capital markets businesses was mixed. Although lower than the record performance in 1989, the Wardley Group's profit of HK$321.1 million for 1990 was satisfactory. CM&M reported a small profit, which was a welcome recovery from the loss reported in the previous year. Significant losses in Euro-convertible market making and the costs of a major restructuring programme, together with low turnover in securities markets in the second half of the year, seriously affected the results of the James Capel Group which reported a loss of £30.3 million.

Grenville Transportation Holdings reported a profit of HK$1,052.9 million for 1990, partly as a result of an exceptional gain from the sale of its remaining shareholdings in World Maritime, and World Shipping and Investment Company.

At the Meeting held on 26 February 1991 shareholders approved by 2.004.510,535 votes to 7,066.421 the Scheme of Arrangement to reorganise the HongkongBank group, making HSBC Holdings plc the group holding company and HongkongBank a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings through the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of HongkongBank by HSBC Holdings.

Subject to sanction of the Scheme by the Supreme Court at a hearing to be held on 26 March, and to the Boards of Directors of HongkongBank and HSBC Holdings being satisfied with regard to the grant of listings for HSBC Holdings shares in Hong Kong and London and obtaining all necessary authorisations and approvals, it is expected that the Scheme will become effective on 2 April 1991, that certificates for new shares in HSBC Holdings will be posted on or before 6 April, and that dealings in the new shares will begin on the Stock Exchanges in Hong Kong and London on 8 April 1991.

Outlook for 1991

The outlook for 1991 is very uncertain, despite the welcome end to the war in the Gulf. The weakness of the US economy, and its implications for the health of the financial sector in that country, are grounds for concern. It is probable that world economic growth will be slower than in 1990, although there could well be signs of recovery towards the end of the year.

Although growing more slowly than in 1990 the East Asian region is still likely to be the fastest growing region in the world. However, even if demand begins to build up towards the end of 1991, capacity constraints will restrain growth, keeping inflation relatively high.

Notwithstanding the uncertainties ahead, it is expected that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the Board of HSBC Holdings will recommend dividends for 1991 of at least the total amount of the dividend distribution paid by HongkongBank in respect of 1990, that is, HK$1.56 per HSBC Holdings share (equivalent to 39 cents on each share in the current issued capital of HongkongBank).

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 1990 (audited)

1989 HK$m		1990 HK$m	1990 £m	1990 US$m
5,057	Profit of the Bank and its subsidiary companies	3,659	245	469
423	Share of profits less losses of associated companies	302	20	39
5,480		3,961	265	508
(706)	Profit attributable to minority interests	(865)	(58)	(111)
4,774	**Profit attributable to the shareholders of the Bank**	3,096	207	397
(2,440)	**Dividends**	(2,518)	(168)	(323)
2,334	**Retained profit for the year**	578	39	74

HK cents		HK cents	GB pence	US cents
74.95 *(adjusted)*	**Earnings per share**	48.14	3.22	6.17
	Dividends per share			
12.73 *(adjusted)*	**Interim**	13.00	0.87	1.67
25.45 *(adjusted)*	**Second interim**	26.00	1.74	3.33
38.18	**Total**	39.00	2.61	5.00

Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 1990 (audited)

1989 HK$m		1990 HK$m	1990 £m	1990 US$m
	ASSETS			
264,046	Cash and short-term funds	289,868	19,363	37,163
79,967	Placings with banks maturing between one and twelve months	116,233	7,765	14,902
35,966	Trade bills and certificates of deposit	43,773	2,924	5,612
31,204	Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	34,704	2,318	4,449
49,093	Investments	62,680	4,187	8,036
538,147	Advances to customers and other accounts	570,549	38,113	73,146
998,423		1,117,807	74,670	143,308
2,141	Investments in associated companies	2,029	136	260
37,210	Premises and equipment	38,420	2,566	4,926
1,037,774		1,158,256	77,372	148,494
	LIABILITIES			
31,264	Hong Kong currency notes in circulation	34,764	2,322	4,457
925,820	Current, deposit and other accounts	1,041,964	69,604	133,584
1,628	Dividend payable	1,681	112	216
958,712		1,078,409	72,038	138,257
	CAPITAL RESOURCES			
20,690	Loan capital and preference shares	20,027	1,338	2,568
5,703	Minority interests	6,318	422	810
14,540	Share capital	16,161	1,080	2,072
38,129	Reserves	37,341	2,494	4,787
52,669	Shareholders' funds	53,502	3,574	6,859
79,062		79,847	5,334	10,237
1,037,774		1,158,256	77,372	148,494

Closing of Register of Shareholders

Subject to the Scheme of Arrangement being sanctioned by the Supreme Court, the Register of Shareholders of HongkongBank is expected to close at 4.00pm on 28 March 1991 so that shareholders' entitlements to new shares in HSBC Holdings can be determined: shareholders who are already on the Register will not need to take any action and in particular they will not need to surrender share certificates relating to their holdings of HongkongBank shares. With regard to recent or current purchases of HongkongBank shares, in order to qualify for the new shares, all transfers (accompanied by the relevant share certificates) must by that time be lodged with the Registrars, Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, Hopewell Centre, 19th Floor, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong.

Directors' Interests

At 31 December 1990 Directors and their associates had the following beneficial interests in the shares of the Bank.

J R H Bond	61,239	K S Li	2,038,505	H Sohmen	1,671,563
D E Connolly	641,531	D P H Liao	61,505	J E Strickland	78,270
F R Frame	86,137	Sir Kit McMahon	6,050	J J Swaine	951
J M Gray	58,380	C W Newton	8,091	J C C Tang	39,930
N R Knox	30,250	W Purves	114,388	G A Thompson	104,610
H C Lee	66,140	N M S Rich	14,520	P J Wrangham	140,372

H C Lee also had a beneficial interest in 13,500 ordinary shares of Hang Seng Bank Limited.

As Directors of Marine Midland Bank, N.A., J R H Bond, J M Gray, N R Knox, W Purves and G A Thompson each had a beneficial interest in 10 shares of common stock of that Company.

By Order of the Board
R G Barber, *Secretary*

12 March 1991

STOCK MARKET

Scottish & Newcastle slips on talk of a rights issue

SHARES in Scottish & Newcastle, the brewing and leisure group, fell 7p to 394p amid suggestions that it is considering a rights issue to finance a big acquisition.

The speculators believe that S&N would like to expand its leisure activities through an offer for William Hill, the betting shops chain owned by Brent Walker, George Walker's troubled leisure group. Brent Walker softened 1p to 83p after climbing 15p on Monday as word surfaced that a deal may be on the cards.

Brent Walker bought William Hill from Sears and Mecca Bookmakers from Grand Metropolitan in a combined deal last year worth £685 million. But rising interest rates have forced BW to negotiate a refinancing package with its bankers and some in the City believe that BW may have to make disposals to reduce gearing. Margins in bookmaking have been reduced by the recession and by increased expenditure.

S&N sold its Thistle hotels chain in 1989 to Mount Charlotte for £645 million and invested the proceeds in the Center Parcs holiday village business. Last night, both S&N and BW refused to comment.

The rest of the equity market spent a lacklustre day as the buyers, who have driven the market to within a whisker of its all-time high in recent days, failed to appear. The FT-SE 100 index closed 4.3 lower at 2,454.8, having fluctuated within narrow limits for most of the day. The FT index of 30 shares shed 8.4 to 1,947.8.

Interest was focused instead on the start of trading in the two electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen, where talk of stake-building guaranteed healthy premiums. National Power closed at 137½p compared with the partly paid price of 100p, while PowerGen rose 37p to 137p.

Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, is believed to have been an aggressive buyer for a French company. Almost 225 million NP shares and 131 million PowerGen shares were traded. This helped to boost the total to almost 1 billion.

The electricity distributors recovered losses. **Eastern** rose 3p to 177p, **London** firmed 1p to 190p, **Manweb** 2p to 224p, **Northern** 5p to 208p, **Norweb** 4p to 203p, **South Wales** 4p to 226p, **South West** 1p to 200p, and **Yorkshire** 1p to 209p, while the electicity package advanced £12 to £1,960.

Fading hopes of another cut in bank base rates soon left government securities nursing falls of more than £½ at the longer end and £¼ at the shorter end.

WPP, the advertising agency, tumbled 50p to 142p in late dealings with the market still awaiting the outcome of the refinancing talks. The Speyhawk property group rose a further 18p to 127p.

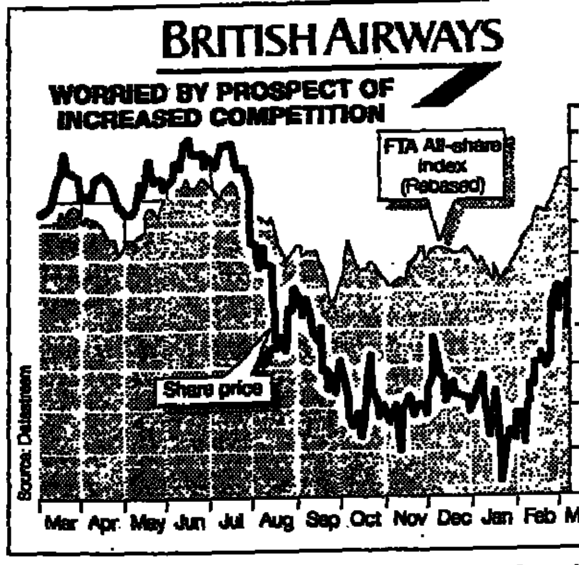
A profits downgrading by broker Hoare Govett left **Lucas Industries** 9p cheaper at 157p. Hoare has cut its pre-tax profits estimate from £155 million to £133 million, blaming depressed conditions in the automotive market.

The warning from Lord King, the chairman of **British Airways**, about future profitability left the shares 10p lower at 163p. Lord King's warning came in the wake of moves to open up transatlantic air routes and the government's decision to transfer some Japanese routes to Richard Branson's Virgin Airlines. He said it would "materially reduce" BA's future profitability.

Full-year figures from George Wimpey provided further evidence of how badly the construction industry has been hit by the recession. Pre-tax profits dropped from £173.1 million to £97.6 million. The total dividend is held at 10.5p which enabled the share price to shrug off an early fall and close 10p better at 209p. The board still remains cautious.

Standard Chartered, the international banking group, touched 313p before rallying to close 3p dearer at 332p

MICHAEL CLARK



J Sainsbury climbed 7p to 350p amid reports that broker Warburg Securities has embarked on an aggressive buy programme. Kleinwort Benson has also taken a shine to Sainsbury and says that the shares are cheap compared with its big rival, Tesco. Kleinwort is urging the institutions, which are underweight in the sector, to buy.

Futures buying lifts Dow 11 points

New York

SHARES recovered from their early weakness and gained in the morning on a round of futures-related buying.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 11 points to 2,950.36 after dropping by two points at the opening.

One dealer said that, with many individual investors on the sidelines before Friday's expirations of the March index options, index futures and share options, volatility was high.

WORLD MARKETS

● **Tokyo** — Prices closed firmer, encouraged by the yen's gains against the dollar. The Nikkei index was up 58.05 points, or 0.22 per cent, to 26,727.42 with a light 500 million shares traded compared with 550 million shares on Monday.

● **Hong Kong** — Prices closed lower as investors remained on the sidelines and the market consolidated its recent big gains.

The Hang Seng index shed 10.96 points to 3,658.07. The broader Hong Kong index fell 7.29 points to 2,399.41. Turnover eased to HK$1.26 billion (£87 million) from HK$1.89 billion on Monday.

● **Frankfurt** — Shares ended mixed after swinging through a 13-point range in largely technical trading.

The Dax index ended 5.83 points higher at 1,571.61.

● **Sydney** — The market ended firmer, but off the day's highs, with little reaction to the statement by Bob Hawke, the prime minister, on industry. The All-Ordinaries index reached a high for the day of 1,434.7 in the morning, before falling to end 5.5 points higher at 1,429.4.

● **Singapore** — Prices closed weaker but off the day's lows on selective bargain-hunting in active trading, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index closed 10.93 points lower at 1,477.55. It had been 23.26 points down at mid-morning. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

	Mar 12 midday	Mar 11 close
Abbott Lab	47⅜	47⅜
Aetna Life	44⅛	45⅜
Ahmanson	17⅜	17⅜
Air Prods	65⅝	67⅛
Albertsons	40⅜	40⅜
Alcan Al	23⅛	23
Alco Stand	32⅜	32⅜
Allied Signal	29⅝	29⅜
Alumin CA	67⅝	67⅜
Am Brands	46⅜	46⅜
Am Cyanmd	58⅝	58⅜
Am EPC	28⅜	29⅜
Am General	37⅜	37⅜
Am Home	57⅜	56⅜
Am Intl	96⅜	95⅜
Am Medical	5⅜	5⅜
Am Stores	75⅜	74⅜
Amax	25⅜	25⅜
Amer Hess	48⅜	49⅜
Ameritech	66⅜	65
Amex	28⅜	28⅜
Amoco	53⅜	53⅜
AMP	52⅜	53⅜
AMR	57	57⅜
Anheuser-B	46⅜	48⅜
Apple Comp	62⅜	63⅜
Archer-Dan	22⅜	22⅜
Arkla	19⅜	19⅜
Armstrong	27	28⅜
Asarco	28⅜	29⅜
Ashland Oil	32⅜	32⅜
AT&T	33⅜	34
Atlan Richfld	120⅜	120⅜
Auto DP	64⅜	64⅜
Avery Intl	25⅜	24⅜
Avon Prod	42	42⅜
Baltimore	28⅜	28⅜
Banc One	32⅜	32⅜
Bankamerica	32⅜	32⅜
Bard	21⅜	21⅜
Barnett Bl	24⅜	24⅜
Bausch Lmb	80⅜	79⅜
Baxter Intl	31⅜	32⅜
Bec Dickin	73⅜	73⅜
Bell Atlant	48⅜	48⅜
Bellsouth	52⅜	51⅜
Bkr Hughes	28⅜	27⅜
Black Decker	13⅜	14
Block	48⅜	46⅜
Bnkrs Tst NY	46⅜	46⅜
Boeing	48⅜	48⅜
Boise Casc	28⅜	28⅜
Borden	34⅜	34⅜
Brist-Myer	76⅜	76⅜
Browng-Fer	28⅜	28⅜
Burl Nth	28⅜	28⅜
CAI	9⅜	9⅜
Campbell Sp	70⅜	70⅜
Cap Cities	478⅜	488
Capital HC	45⅜	45⅜
Carolina	46⅜	48⅜
Caterpiller	54⅜	55⅜
CBS	169⅜	169⅜
Central SW	42⅜	42
Champion	28⅜	28⅜
Chase Man	15	15⅜
Chem Bnkg	17⅜	17⅜
Chevron	75⅜	74⅜
Chrysler	14⅜	14⅜
Chubb	68	68⅜
Cigna	47⅜	48⅜
Citicorp	15⅜	15⅜
Clrbne Liz	46⅜	46⅜
Clorox	39	40
Comwth Edis	39⅜	39⅜
CNA Fincl	85⅜	84
Coastal	32⅜	32⅜
Coca-Cola	51⅜	52
Colgate-Pal	74	74
Columb Gas	45⅜	44⅜
Compaq	68⅜	67⅜
Conagra	41⅜	41⅜
Cons Edis	24	23⅜
Cons NG	42⅜	42⅜
Cons Rail	47	47⅜
Cooper Ind	49⅜	49⅜
Corning	58⅜	60
CPC Intl	81⅜	81⅜
Crown Cork	64⅜	64⅜
CSX	36⅜	37
Dana	28⅜	30⅜
Dayton-Hud	67⅜	67⅜
Deere	51⅜	52
Delta Air	75	74⅜
Deluxe	37⅜	38
Detroit Ed	28⅜	28⅜
Digital Eq	77⅜	79
Dillard	103⅜	105⅜
Disney	125	125⅜
Dominion	45⅜	45
Donnelley	49	48⅜
Dover	41⅜	42
Dow Chem	53⅜	51⅜
Dow Jones	28⅜	25⅜
Dresser Ind	24⅜	25⅜
Du Pont	38⅜	38
Duke Pwr	27⅜	27⅜
Dun Bradst	45	45⅜
East Kodak	45⅜	45⅜
Eaton	59⅜	59⅜
Emerson El	42⅜	42⅜

	Mar 12 midday	Mar 11 close
Enron	55⅜	55⅜
Ensrch	23⅜	23⅜
Ethyl	29⅜	29⅜
Exxon	56	56⅜
Fed NMA	44⅜	46⅜
Fedrl Expre	39⅜	40⅜
Fi Nonstar	17	17⅜
Fluor	49⅜	50⅜
FMC	37⅜	37
Ford Motor	33⅜	33⅜
FPL	29⅜	29⅜
Fst Chicago	23⅜	23⅜
Fst Intrstt	33⅜	33⅜
Fst Union	21	21
Gannett	38⅜	39⅜
Gen Cinema	23⅜	23⅜
Gen Elec	68⅜	68⅜
Gen Mills	55	54⅜
Gen Motors	39⅜	39⅜
Gen RE	96⅜	97
Gen Signal	43⅜	43⅜
Genentech	25⅜	25⅜
Genuine Pts	40⅜	40⅜
Georgia-Pac	43⅜	43⅜
Gillette	75⅜	76⅜
Goodrich	42⅜	42⅜
Goodyear	23⅜	23⅜
Grace	29⅜	29⅜
Greyhound	30⅜	30
Gt Atlantic	54⅜	54⅜
Gt Western	16⅜	16⅜
GTE	31⅜	31⅜
Halliburtn	50⅜	51⅜
Heinz	37	37⅜
Hercules	41⅜	41⅜
Hershey Fd	40	40⅜
Hewlett Pkd	46⅜	46⅜
Hilton Htl	43⅜	44⅜
Home Depot	50⅜	50⅜
Homestake	17⅜	17⅜
Honeywell	59⅜	59⅜
Houston Ind	36	35⅜
Hshld Intl	46⅜	47⅜
Humana	47⅜	46⅜
IBM	127⅜	128⅜
IF&F	82⅜	83⅜
Illinois TW	55⅜	55⅜
Inco	32	31⅜
Ingersl-Rand	46⅜	51⅜
Inland Steel	24⅜	25
Intel	47	45⅜
Intl Paper	61⅜	61⅜
ITT	56⅜	56⅜
James River	28⅜	28⅜
Johnsn Jhsn	88⅜	88
K Mart	38	39⅜
Kellogg	85	82⅜
Kerr-McGee	45⅜	45⅜
Kimbly-Clrk	88⅜	86⅜
Knght-Rddr	50⅜	50⅜
Lilly	82	83⅜
Limited	24⅜	24⅜
Lin Brdcstg	63⅜	64
Lincln Nat	50⅜	60⅜
Litton Ind	85⅜	85⅜
Lockheed	41⅜	42⅜
Louis-Pac	32⅜	32⅜
Manu Hano	25⅜	28
Marriott	17⅜	18
Marsh Mclen	81	79⅜
Martin Mar	49⅜	49⅜
Masco	21⅜	22
May Dept	53	53⅜
Maytag	13⅜	13⅜
MCA	n/a	n/a
McDnl Doug	40⅜	40⅜
McDonalds	33⅜	33⅜
McGraw-Hill	58	58⅜
MCI Com	27⅜	27⅜
Mead	29⅜	29⅜
Medtronic	111	116⅜
Melville	49⅜	50⅜
Merck	106⅜	106⅜
Merll Lynch	30⅜	30⅜
MMM	91	90
Mobil	64⅜	63⅜
Monsanto	59⅜	59⅜
Moore	24⅜	24⅜
Morgan	44⅜	45
Motorola	61⅜	62
Nat Medical	46⅜	46⅜
Nat Semi	7⅜	7⅜
Nat Service	28⅜	28⅜
Navistar	3⅜	3⅜
NCNB	30⅜	30⅜
NCR	97⅜	98⅜
NED Bncp	37⅜	36⅜
Newmnt Min	38⅜	38⅜
Niagr Mhwk	14⅜	14⅜
Nike	52⅜	52⅜
NL Indstrs	13⅜	13⅜
Nordstrom	32⅜	32⅜
Norfk Sthn	44⅜	44⅜
Norwest	25	25⅜
Nthn St Pwr	34⅜	35⅜
Nthn Telcm	31⅜	31⅜
NY Times	22⅜	22⅜
Nynex	75⅜	76⅜
Occid Petrl	19⅜	19⅜
Ohio Edi	18	18⅜
Oracle Sys	8⅜	8⅜

	Mar 12 midday	Mar 11 close
Oryx Energy	36⅜	38⅜
Pac Ent	41⅜	41⅜
Pac Gas Elec	24⅜	24⅜
Pac Telesis	41⅜	41⅜
Paccar	40	40
Pacificorp	21⅜	21⅜
Pall	33	32⅜
Paramount	41⅜	42⅜
Parker-Hanfin	25⅜	26⅜
Penney	54⅜	54⅜
Pennzoil	70⅜	70⅜
Pepsico	32⅜	32
Pfizer	106⅜	106⅜
Phillps Pet	27⅜	27⅜
Philips Elec	19	18⅜
Philp Morris	67⅜	67⅜
Phelps Dodge	67⅜	67⅜
Pitney Bow	52⅜	52⅜
Plcr Dome	14⅜	14⅜
PNC Fncl	29⅜	30
Pnhdle Estn	14⅜	14⅜
Polaroid	27	28⅜
PPG Inds	52⅜	51⅜
Proc Gmble	86⅜	86
Price	41⅜	42⅜
Primerica	31⅜	31⅜
Pub Service	28⅜	28⅜
Quaker Oats	56⅜	56⅜
Ralston Pur	84⅜	84⅜
Raychem	29	28⅜
Raytheon	79⅜	77⅜
Reebok	23⅜	24⅜
Roadway	44⅜	44⅜
Rockwell	28⅜	26⅜
Rohm Hass	43⅜	43⅜
Royal Dutch	n/a	n/a
Rubbermaid	48	48⅜
Rynlds Mtl	62⅜	62
Safeco	38⅜	38⅜
Salomon	28⅜	28⅜
Sant Fe Pac	7⅜	7⅜
Sara Lee	38	37⅜
Schecorp	38	37⅜
Schlmbgr	61⅜	62
Scrng-Plgh	60	59⅜
Scott Papr	45	44⅜
Seagram	94⅜	95
Sears Rbk	32⅜	32⅜
Secrty Pac	27⅜	28⅜
Shrwn-Wilms	44⅜	44⅜
Skyline	16	16⅜
Snap-on Tls	30⅜	31
Southern	27⅜	27⅜
St Paul	67⅜	67⅜
Stanley Wk	36⅜	36
Stone Cntr	14⅜	14⅜
Sun Co	33⅜	33⅜
Suntst Bk	28⅜	28⅜
Super Valu	27⅜	28⅜
SW Bell	63⅜	63⅜
Syntex	73⅜	74⅜
Sysco	36⅜	36⅜
Tandem	14⅜	14⅜
Tandy	33⅜	33⅜
Tele-comm	14⅜	15
Teledyne	22	22⅜
Temple-In	37	37⅜
Tenneco	46⅜	46⅜
Texaco	63⅜	63⅜
Texas Inst	41⅜	42⅜
Texas Util	36⅜	35⅜
Textron	31	30⅜
Time Wrnr	109⅜	110⅜
Times Mirr	30⅜	29⅜
Timken	27⅜	27⅜
Torchmark	55⅜	55⅜
Toys R Us	28⅜	27⅜
Transam	36⅜	36⅜
Travelers	22⅜	22⅜
Tribune	43⅜	43⅜
TRW	49⅜	40⅜
Tyco Lab	50⅜	51
UAL	146⅜	146⅜
Un Camp	40⅜	41⅜
Un Carbide	19⅜	20⅜
Un Pacific	73⅜	73⅜
Unilever	67⅜	66⅜
Unisys	6⅜	6
Unocal	28	27⅜
Upjohn	42⅜	43
US West	38⅜	38⅜
Usair Gp	21⅜	22
USF&G	10⅜	10⅜
UST	44⅜	43
USX	30⅜	30⅜
Utd Tech	50⅜	50⅜
Utd Telcm	25⅜	25⅜
VF	26	25⅜
Wal-Mart	36⅜	36⅜
Walgreen	n/a	n/a
Waste Mgmt	41⅜	41⅜
Wells Fargo	78⅜	79⅜
Westg Elec	29⅜	29⅜
Weyerhsr	24⅜	24⅜
Whirlpool	28⅜	27⅜
Whitman	23⅜	23⅜
Winn-Dixie	38	38⅜
Woolworth	33⅜	33⅜
Wrigley	60⅜	59⅜
Wrnr-Lamb	76⅜	76⅜
Xerox	57⅜	58

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 4	March 15	June 13	June 24

Call options were taken out on: 12/3/91 Amstrad, Aviva Pet, Brent Walker, Control Securities, Ferranti, Goodwin, Next, NSM, Oceonics, Platignum, Saatchi & Saatchi, Speyhawk, Tullow Oil, Tuskar Res, SW Wood, WPP Group.
Puts: Amstrad, Telfos.
Puts & Calls: Hunterprint, Next.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Lyons (*344)	460	90	93	104	1½	5	8
	500	52	60	74	5	14	17
	550	18	31	44	21	35	38
ASDA (*139)	120	21	27	28	1	3	5
	130	13	19½	21	2½	5	7½
	140	6½	13	15	6½	9½	12
Bass (*1041)	1050	37	67	95	31	55	65
	1100	16	45	72	65	85	93
	1150	6	-	-	107	-	-
Boots (*360)	300	64	69	74	1	3	4½
	330	36	43	52	2	8	11
	360	14	22	32	11	20	23
Br Airways (*160)	140	25	26	32	2½	7	9
	160	11	14	20	8	16	19
	180	4½	7½	12	22	30	30
BP (*346)	300	50	56	59	1½	4	6½
	330	25	34	40	5	10½	15
	360	7	16	22	20	25	29
Br Steel (*142)	130	15½	19	19	1½	4½	6
	140	7½	12	13½	4	8½	11
	160	2	4	7½	19	24	25
C & W (*521)	460	72	82	95	3	11	15
	500	38	54	67	9	22	29
	550	11	28	43	37	47	53
CU (*523)	460	70	87	90	2	5½	11
	500	36	56	62	7½	16	23
	550	10	27	36	34	40	47
Courtauld (*386)	330	61	63	73	1½	4½	6½
	360	34	40	51	4	12	15
	390	13	23	32	14	25	27
GKN (*369)	330	45	60	62	2½	8	13
	360	21	40	43	12	18	25
	390	8	24	30	28	33	40
Grand Met (*767)	650	130	145	159	1	6	10
	700	83	103	123	6	14	23
	750	44	72	90	15	31	38
ICI (*1029)	1000	60	100	115	22	33	48
	1050	31	72	85	47	56	70
	1100	16	50	67	82	85	99
Kingfisher (*446)	390	60	70	77	1½	9	12
	420	34	45	57	7	15	19
	460	12	24	37	25	34	38
Ladbroke (*287)	240	53	57	65	2	6	8
	260	34	40	50	4½	10	13
	280	19	28	37	9	17	22
Land Sec (*548)	500	55	61	71	3	8	12
	550	19	28	42	16	29	33
	600	3½	10	21	58	64	67
M & S (*251)	220	34	38	46	1	4	5½
	240	18	23	32	4	10	12
	260	6½	13	21	13	20	22
Sainsbury (*350)	300	55	60	69	1	3	4
	330	27	35	46	3½	8	11
	360	8	18	28	16	22	24
Shell (*483)	420	69	83	95	3	5½	7
	460	36	53	65	7	13	17
	500	11	27	38	25	29	37
Smkl Beech (*753)	650	112	129	145	1½	8	14
	700	67	90	109	7	18	25
	750	33	59	80	23	35	43
Storehse (*120)	110	13	15	20	3	6	8½
	120	6	10	14	7	12	14
	130	3	6	-	14	18	-
Trafalgar (*248)	220	35	39	48	4	12	17
	240	20	28	38	11	22	26
	260	11	19	28	21	33	37
Ultramar (*338)	300	40	52	60	3	6	8½
	330	17	33	40	11	15	20
	360	6	17	25	30	32	38
Unilever (*736)	600	142	143	-	1½	3½	-
	650	92	104	124	4	9	12
	700	45	65	85	12	20	27
	750	14	36	56	37	45	48
Utd Bisc (*375)	330	47	51	59	2	5½	9
	360	19	31	39	10	14	18
	390	4½	15	23	30	32	36

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAA (*411)	390	38	48	58	9	20	22
	420	22	33	43	21	35	35
	460	9	-	-	50	-	-
BAT Ind (*704)	550	162	165	-	1½	4	-
	600	112	125	137	3	8	12
	650	70	85	102	12	22	25
	700	38	55	72	30	37	45
BTR (*376)	360	30	43	49	12	16	20
	390	15	27	33	27	31	35
	420	6½	15	22	52	53	55
Br Aero (*617)	550	90	108	117	10	14	21
	600	52	74	86	21	30	39
	650	23	50	60	48	57	62
Br Telecom (*332)	280	62	68	71	1	3½	5
	300	44	50	55	2½	7	8
	330	21	29	36	9½	17	19
Cadbury (*371)	330	52	64	68	3	5	7
	360	30	42	48	9	14	16
	390	11	25	33	25	29	31
Guinness (*872)	750	127	145	162	5	11	14
	800	82	108	125	11	21	26
	850	49	77	95	30	40	45
GEC (*214)	180	41	43	45	1	3	4
	200	24	26	31	3½	8	10
	220	10½	14	20	11	16½	19
Hanson (*231)	200	36½	40	46	1½	4	4½
	220	20	25	31	4½	8½	10
	240	9	14½	21	14	18	20
LASMO (*372)	330	57	71	77	3	8	12
	360	33	48	56	12	16	22
	390	17	32	40	27	30	34
P & O (*586)	500	94	102	-	5½	10	-
	550	50	63	70	18	25	32
	600	20	37	41	43	50	57
Pilkington (*187)	160	35	36	37	2½	7	8½
	180	19	20	26	8	14	15
	200	8	12	17	19	26	27

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Prudential (*235)	200	39	42	44	2	3½	5
	220	18½	28	31	6	9	11
	240	8½	17	21	16	18	21
Racal (*212)	180	37	41	47	2½	5½	7
	200	22	28	32	6½	12	14
	220	11	17	22	17	21	23
	240	5	-	-	30	-	-
RTZ (*532)	420	118	126	-	2½	4	-
	460	76	89	98	7	12	13
	500	41	60	68	18	24	26
	550	17	33	43	48	49	54
Scot New (*394)	330	76	82	-	2½	4	-
	360	49	57	63	5	11	13
	390	26	36	45	14	22	24
	420	13	20	29	31	40	43
Tesco (*264)	214	53	56	-	1½	3	-
	233	34	40	-	3½	5	-
	253	16	25	-	7	10	-
Thames W. (*309)	280	37	41	43	5	9	12
	300	22	27	30	9	17	19
	330	9	13	17	25	35	36
Lucas (*157)	140	25	31	34	5½	8	8
	160	12	18	23	12	14	17
	180	5	8	14	27	30	33

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Fisons (*481)	390	94	103	117	1	2½	4½
	420	64	77	92	2½	6½	9
	460	30	46	61	11	16	19

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat (*259)	220	42	48	52	1	2	3½
	240	22	32	36	1	4½	7½
	260	6	18	24	6	11	15
Amstrad (*78)	60	19	22	24	1	2	3½
	70	9	13	17	1	3½	6½
	80	2	7½	10	5	8	10
Barclays (*451)	390	57	75	82	1½	6	12
	420	28	50	61	3½	14	24
	460	6	27	38	22	30	40
Blue Circ (*270)	240	30	36	42	1¼	8½	14
	260	13	23	31	5½	16	22
	280	3½	13	21	16	27	32
Br Gas (*255)	220	35	43	45	1	2	4
	240	16	26	29	2	5	10
	260	3	14	15½	9	15	19
Dixons (*181)	160	21	31	31	1	4	7
	180	6	17	20	5	11	16
	200	1½	7½	10	22	25	28
Glaxo (*991)	950	47	92	-	7	28	-
	1000	17	62	-	30	49	-
	1050	4	40	-	67	79	-
Hawker (*538)	460	83	93	100	1	11	17
	500	47	60	75	3	23	30
	550	11	32	50	23	50	55
Hillsdown (*236)	180	58	62	65	1	3	5½
	200	38	43	50	1	6½	10
	220	19	28	39	4	13	17
Lonrho (*240)	200	42	48	52	1	2	6
	230	22	32	36	2	5½	11
	240	7	19	25	6	13	20
Midland (*198)	160	40	46	50	1	4	6
	180	21	32	37	2	8	13
	200	5½	20	26	8	16	22
	220	1½	11	16	25	29	35
Reuter (*886)	750	150	-	-	2½	-	-
	800	103	-	-	5	-	-
	850	60	-	-	16	-	-
R-Royce (*160)	160	6	14	19	4½	9	12
	180	1½	6	10½	19	22	23
	200	½	2	-	39	41	-
Sears (*94)	80	14	17	17	1	3	4
	90	5	9	11	2	6	8
	100	1½	3	5½	8	13	14
THF (*270)	260	15	24	31	3½	12	15
	280	5	13	22	12	22	24
	300	4	6½	13	18	35	38
Thorn EMI (*750)	600	155	176	175	1	2	6
	650	105	127	130	1	5	13
	700	55	83	87	1	11	24
	750	14	50	58	13	26	45
TSB (*153)	130	26	30	33	1	1	1½
	140	16	21	25	1	3	5½
	160	2	9	13	8	10	14
Vaal Reefs (*560)	50	13	15	17	1	3	6
	60	4	9	12	4	7	11
Wellcome (*508)	460	50	74	90	2	15	21
	500	22	49	65	13	30	35
	550	4	25	40	47	57	62

	Series	Mar	May	Aug	Mar	May	Aug
Eastn Elec (*176)	140	34	38	41	1	2½	4
	160	15	20	24	2	5½	10
	180	3	10	13	8	12	20
Sthrn Elec (*187)	140	47	50	-	1	2	-
	160	27	32	-	1	2	-
	180	8	15½	-	2½	6	-
Elec Pack (*£1950)	1800	150	180	-	15	40	-
	1850	110	140	-	20	60	-
	1900	80	110	-	50	70	-

FT-SE INDEX (*2453)

	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500
Calls						
Mar	213	167	120	79	42	21
Apr	238	193	152	111	80	55
May	248	205	165	130	115	73
Jun	265	230	190	156	124	97
Dec	—	315	—	260	—	205
Puts						
Mar	3½	5½	9	18	36	68
Apr	12	17	26	40	58	85
May	20	28	38	52	70	97
Jun	27	35	47	60	80	109
Dec	—	74	—	108	—	153

March 12, 1991 Total: 38189 Calls 24955 Puts 13234 FT-SE: Calls 7126 Puts 2328

*Underlying security price.

BUSINESS ROUND

Radio Clyde to me
with Radio Forth

Kerry rai
profits 1

slips to £4.7

Swiss deal
in balance

loss

fai
ler

NOTHING SUCCEEDS

Teesside development is bucking the trend. Under the stimulus of the Development Corporation's massive effort to transform the social environment and boost the economy, private investment is flowing in at an unprecedented rate. Over £500 million already committed – much more to come.

Work is well under way on major flagship schemes. Like Teesdale where 250 acres of formerly derelict industrial land is now being transformed into a new business world for the North. Like Teesside Park's 1,000,000 square foot shopping and leisure centre where trading has already begun. Like Hartlepool Marina where people are moving into the first houses and boats are moving into the first berths.

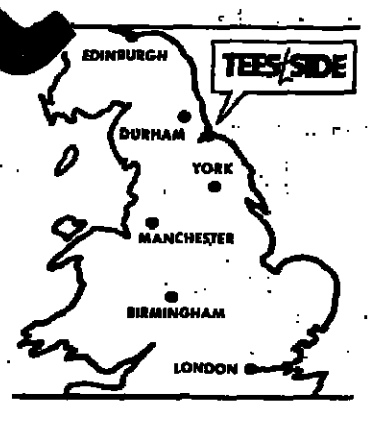
In the past three years more than 100 companies have been helped by the Corporation to set up or expand on Teesside. That means 7,500 projected new jobs and many more indirectly. Confidence in Teesside's success is shown in new major investment by worldwide manufacturing companies – ICI, Enron, Cable & Wireless, Integral Corporation, Sanyo, MTM, Tabuchi, Samsung.

Abundant new premises, a ready-and-able workforce, Development Area incentives, excellent road, rail, sea and air links, and the energy and commitment of Teessiders – all are combining to make Teesside one of the fastest growing business centres in the country.

Teesside. Building successfully on success. Come and join us.

LIKE TEESSIDE

For more information contact: Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636. Fax: (0642) 230843.



TEESSIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL Tel: 0345 717373 (Linkline)				
Gilt/Fixed	112.7	119.6●	+0.1	8.82
High Inc Equity	140.1	149.0	+0.5	5.70
W'wide Bond	202.1	214.3●	+0.2	7.00
Amer Growth	179.6	182.0	+1.8	1.00
Asian Pacific	119.7	127.3	+1.2	0.16
Assets/Earns	171.1	182.9	+1.8	2.99
Capit Res	109.5	●	+0.1	8.90
Comm/Energy	75.26	80.49●	+1.18	1.23
Euro Capit	86.71	91.38	-0.02	1.42
General	172.7	184.7●	+1.8	2.71
Japan	96.42	102.0	+0.57	0.00
UK Gth Inc	99.98	106.9	+0.69	2.87
Do Acc	154.6	165.5	+1.1	2.67
US Emerg Cos	57.66	61.66	+0.88	0.00
Income/Gth	307.6	326.9	+1.6	3.13
Managed Acc	86.46	92.47	+0.55	2.78
Am Inc	44.26	47.32●	-0.55	7.83
Ethical	48.37	51.73	+0.25	1.93
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
10, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Tel: 0224 633070 dealing (Freephone) 0800 833580				
30, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ Tel: 071-374 6901				
Am Inc/Gth	27.36	29.07	+0.24	2.75
Euro	71.66	76.06●	+0.12	0.00
Euro Inc	74.29	78.30●	-0.21	1.57
Exempt	785.1	782.1	+7.5	2.97
Extra Inc	40.23	43.46●	+0.27	8.78
F/E Emerg Ec	48.00	51.85	+0.57	1.34
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL Tel: 0793 514514 dealings 0793 610366				
High Inc	361.5	384.9●	+5.1	6.04
Equity Inc	196.1	208.6	+2.3	5.31
High Yield	208.0	221.5	+2.9	5.12
Balanced	531.3	565.8	+6.2	3.42
Am Inc	30.65	32.64●	+0.30	4.29
World Ass Val	30.98	32.94	+0.27	1.32
Japan	128.8	137.4	+1.1	0.01
Sec of Am	271.1	288.7	+5.5	0.27
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel: 081-534 5544				
Capit	80.67	86.28●	+1.00	3.78
Euro Gth Inc	92.17	98.31	-0.39	1.89
Extra Inc	97.89	104.7	+0.55	6.38
General	199.2	213.1c	+1.2	3.94
Gilt/Fxd Income	50.36	52.19●	+0.06	10.22
Inc Trust	438.9	469.4●	+2.1	5.57
BARING FUND MANAGERS				
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ Tel: 081-658 9002				
Amer Gth	58.78	62.27	+0.34	0.50
Am Sm Cos	63.93	67.81	+0.41	0.30
Australia	49.02	52.35	+0.35	1.90
Convertible	44.85	48.70c	+0.72	8.30
East	122.0	131.3●	+1.7	1.20
Equity Inc	76.71	81.75	+0.45	6.60
Euro Gth	177.6	189.0	-1.7	2.70
Euro Smll Cos	156.9	165.6	-0.4	1.20
Exempt	86.78	89.00	..	4.10
German Gth	45.65	48.45	-0.75	0.80
Global Gth	75.41	80.26	+0.45	0.10

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Exempt Fund				
High Yld Exmt	£10.47	10.80	+0.14	5.72
Do Acc	£11.05	11.40	+0.16	5.72
CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT				
PO Box 551 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU Tel: 071-626 0566 071-626 6565				
Amer Index	133.1	142.0●	+0.9	2.37
Capit	469.2	500.7	+5.3	3.86
Euro Index	108.0	115.2●	-1.0	2.16
Euro Growth	70.84	75.60	-0.40	2.61
Far East S S	63.41	67.67	+0.98	0.99
Gold Gen S S	55.26	58.97	+0.88	5.26
Income	448.5	478.6	+4.5	6.28
Intl Gth	59.11	63.06	+0.37	1.60
Jap Index	61.72	65.86●	-0.06	0.19
N Amer	275.6	294.1	+2.0	1.84
Tiger Index	84.18	89.84	+1.11	2.00
UK Index	105.3	112.3	+0.9	4.17
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN Tel: 071-606 0708				
Amer Portf	51.17	54.70	+0.41	2.43
Euro Port	82.28	88.03	-0.27	1.60
Jap Portf	42.93	45.70	+0.15	2.38
Pacific Portf	52.41	56.36	+0.28	2.50
Portf	87.44	91.44	+0.53	2.99
UK Inc/Gth	56.30	60.32	+0.24	7.11
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Inv	517.0	523.2●	..	5.43
Fixed Int	137.0	137.7●	..	10.53
Deposit	100.0		..	13.10
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Income	466.0	496.7	..	5.69
Acc	£17.25	17.40●	..	..
Deposit	100.0		..	13.10
Fixed Int Inc	110.6	110.8	..	10.46
Do Acc	119.0	119.2●	..	..
CIGNA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 128 Beckenham Kent BR3 4PN Tel: 081-663 3030				
Euro Gth	81.57	87.23	..	1.50
1992 Euro Spc	60.34	64.53	..	1.53
Intl Inc	62.72	67.07	..	3.58
NAm Gth	44.48	47.56	..	1.84
Pacific Gth	69.74	74.58	..	1.89
UK Gth Acc	82.96	88.74●	..	2.87
Do Dist	74.12	79.27●	..	2.86
UK Income	63.05	67.40●	..	6.67
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Hart Yard London Bridge SE1 Tel: 071-407 5966				
Assets	49.12	51.71s	+1.23	8.40
Bsch Int Cp Ac	59.33	61.17	..	5.81
Friar Hse Inc	170.5	180.7	+5.3	5.29
Friar Hse Cap	196.7	210.6	+5.4	2.88

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
41, Harrington Gardens London SW7 4JU Tel: 071 373 7261				
Endurance	137.7	140.4	..	2.46
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Walton Street Aylesbury, HP21 7QW Tel: 0296 431480				
Eqtble Pelican	106.2	111.8	+0.62	4.75
High Inc	109.9	115.7	+0.54	6.27
Gilt/Fxd Interest	48.51	51.08	+0.19	9.40
T Of Inv Tst	108.4	114.1●	-1.07	3.08
Spec Sits	96.47	101.5	+0.62	4.48
N Am	67.99	71.56	+0.78	1.31
Far East	162.9	171.5	+1.39	1.43
Intl Gth	72.81	76.75●	-0.75	2.93
Euro	56.30	59.26	-0.40	1.81
Smlr Cos	54.53	57.40	+0.41	5.57
EQUITY & LAW				
St. George Hse Corporation St. Coventry CV1 1GD Tel: 0203 553231				
UK Gth Accum	251.6	267.9	+1.9	3.60
Do Inc	184.1	204.4	+1.4	3.60
Higher Inc Acc	449.6	478.6	+3.2	5.29
Do Inc	303.2	322.6	+2.1	5.29
Gilt/Fxd Acc	132.2	139.7●	-0.3	9.25
Do Inc	79.43	83.62●	+0.04	9.25
N America	145.2	154.5	+1.2	0.00
Far East	211.9	225.5	+1.8	0.62
Europe	210.5	224.0●	-0.9	0.48
Genl	342.5	354.4●	-10.0	3.81
Genl Acc	354.4	377.1●	+10.2	3.81
Br Excellence	52.83	56.21	-0.39	3.60
Br Fdmtls Inc	57.58	61.28●	-0.21	8.80
Do Acc	67.81	71.93●	-1.87	8.80
Global Ops	54.08	57.54	+0.37	0.42
FS INVESTMENT MANAGERS				
190, West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA Tel: 041-332 3132				
Balan Gth Acc	78.94	84.42	+1.02	3.15
Do Inc	75.03	80.25	+0.97	3.15
High Yield Acc	40.87	43.62	+0.19	6.12
Do Inc	33.12	35.42	+0.15	6.12
Inc Gth Acc	53.12	57.61	+0.43	5.36
Do Inc	46.27	49.49	+0.31	5.36
Service Co Acc	63.49	67.90	+0.79	2.65
Do Inc	60.98	65.22	+0.78	2.65
Am Gth Acc	28.63	30.62	+0.13	2.11
Do Inc	28.10	30.05	+0.13	2.11
Euro Gth Acc	26.86	28.68●	+0.16	1.43
Do Inc	26.46	28.29●	+0.15	1.43
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road Hildenborough Kent TN11 9DZ Tel: 0800 414161				
American	142.3	150.6	+1.2	0.00
Cash Unit	128.40		●+0.17	13.85
European	99.74	106.2	-0.30	0.00
Gilt/Inc	129.6	139.0	+0.6	4.81
Inc Plus	109.8	116.8●	+0.2	6.74
UK Gth	60.58	64.68	+0.16	0.00

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Amer Gwth	22.82	24.41	+0.21	0.75
Mngd Assets	103.3	110.5	+0.72	5.25
UK Income	35.27	37.68	+0.33	7.28
Do Gth	33.11	35.42	-0.39	2.85
W'wide	22.85	24.44	+0.12	1.07

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Canadian Gth	33.99	38.15	-0.55	0.10
Global Bond	98.98	103.1●	-0.45	7.52
Penny Share	22.23	23.84	-0.50	0.50
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
2 Honey La EC2 8BT Tel: 071-606 3132				
City Res	52.64		+0.02	13.20
Gilt Gth	52.25	52.97	-0.04	2.58
Gilt Inc	49.04	50.01c	-0.06	11.04
Sht Dtd Gilt	91.24	92.45	-0.00	4.84
US Govt Bonds	63.51	64.33	+0.02	0.00
Challenger	65.38	69.94	+0.14	0.00
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Oak Square Swanley BR8 7AG Tel: 0795 [illegible]				
Stockmkt Fnd	49.71	52.86	+0.20	4.00

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

** Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) ● Ex dividend c Cum dividend k Cum stock split s Ex stock split m Cum all (any two or more of above) a Ex all (any two or more of above) Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday (2) Tuesday (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
92	70	Tinsley (Eliza)	68	75	+2	6.9	9.6	6.5
55	40	Titan	50	60	–	4.0	7.3	10.2
75	23	Torro Hire	37	42●	–	2.1	5.3	12.7
19	10	Total Systems	8	11	–	–	–	–
43½	1½	Tranwood	3½	4½	–	–	–	0.9
483	79	Transworld	128	130	–	–	–	5.5
125	53	Treatt	73	78●	–	4.3	5.7	10.4
200	55	Trencherwood	73	83	+1	–	–	4.4
61	39	Trydan Hldgs	45	50	–	–	–	3.8
49	10	Trilion	19	21●	–	0.7	3.5	–
18	1¼	Tubular Edgngtn	2	3	+¼	–	–	4.1
41	27	Tudor	25	30	–	3.6	12.9	4.7
[illegible]	184	Usr Friendly	302	312	–	12.3	4.0	–
165	112	Usher Group	110	117	–	–	–	12.9
76	58	Usher (Frank)	57	61●	–	6.0	10.2	5.3
53	3	Venture Plant	7	9	–	–	–	–
121	68	VTR Plc	77	82	+2	4.4	5.5	7.8
15¼	7½	Vistec	11	12½	–	–	–	12.9
16	7½	Welpac	13	14	–	0.7	5.2	12.4
76	55	Wareham	55	60	–	4.1	7.1	8.8
30	12	Wentworth	15	18	–	–	–	5.8
98	27	Wescol	38	42	–	2.0	5.0	22.5
23	3	Westport	4½	5½	–	0.8	15.2	3.8
125	33	West Scaffold	47	52	–	6.7	13.4	5.4
22	5	Whitelite	6	7	–	–	–	92.9
75	28	Whitney Mackay	25	30●	–	1.3	4.6	10.1
21	9	Wilson (Rex) Hldgs				f		
95	48	Wood John D & Co	85	95●	-5	2.9	8.2	25.5
65	15	Wild of Leather	20	25	–	–	–	–
173	121	Wyevale	170	175●	+3	4.5	2.6	20.1
90	54	Wyko	65	68●	–	4.0	7.5	7.3
12	5½	XCL Sunrise	5½	6½	–	–	–	–
68	4	Xtra-vision	4	8 f	–	–	–	–
44	38	Yelverton	37	40 t	–	2.7	6.9	7.8
178	130	Young Group	128	132	–	8.9	5.3	12.7
18	3½	Zurich Group	4	4½	–	–	–	–

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 93.2 (day's range 93.2-93.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Mar 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.8570-1.8850	1.8570-1.8580	0.99-0.96pr	2.59-2.57pr
Montrl	2.1420-2.1578	2.1420-2.1460	0.52-0.46pr	0.98-0.88pr
Amstrdm	3.2882-3.2984	3.2925-3.2961	1⅛-⅞pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Brussels	59.99-60.30	60.06-60.27	19-16pr	47-42pr
Copnhgn	11.2028-11.2408	11.2183-11.2409	2⅝-2⅛pr	5⅝-5⅛pr
Dublin	1.0958-1.0980	1.0958-1.0968	22-17pr	58-46pr
Frankft	2.9172-2.9257	2.9201-2.9238	1-⅞pr	2⅜-2⅛pr
Lisbon	253.04-254.46	253.29-254.36	8-29ds	88-140ds
Madrid	181.24-182.34	181.24-181.90	25-30ds	74-82ds
Milan	2178.55-2185.82	2179.65-2184.54	1pr-par	par-2ds
Oslo	11.3985-11.4362	11.4038-11.4288	2⅝-2pr	4⅝-4pr
Paris	9.9439-9.9682	9.9536-9.9682	2⅝-2⅜pr	6⅝-6⅜pr
Stckhlm	10.7632-10.8058	10.7632-10.7875	⅞-⅝pr	1⅝-1pr
Tokyo	253.13-254.37	253.20-253.52	1-⅞pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Vienna	20.52-20.58	20.54-20.57	7-5⅞pr	17⅞-15pr
Zurich	2.5311-2.5364	2.5311-2.5343	1-⅞pr	2⅝-2⅜pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 13 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 13⅞ Low 13 Week fixed: 12⅞

Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 11 15/16; 3 mth 11⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 11 13/16; 3 mth: 11⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	12 17/32-15/32	12 1/16-11 15/16	11 29/32-11⅞	11⅝-11	
Trade Bills (Dis):	13 5/32	12 11/16	12 13/32	11⅞	
Interbank:	12 11/16-12⅝	12 7/16-12 5/16	12¼-12 3/16	11⅞-11⅞	11 9/16-11½
(Overnight: open 13⅝, close 13⅜.					
Local Authority Deps:	12 11/16	n/a	12⅛	11⅞	11⅝
Sterling CDs:	12 11/16-12⅝	12 7/16-12⅜	12¼-12⅛	11 13/16-11¾	11⅝-11½
Dollar CDs:	6.45-6.40	6.45-6.40	6.45-6.40	6.47-6.42	6.92-6.87
Building Society CDs:	12⅝-12½	12⅜-12 5/16	12¼-12⅛	11 13/16-11¾	11⅝-11½

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6 3/16-5 13/16	6 7/16-6⅜	6 7/16-6⅜	6⅝-6 9/16	6⅛-5⅝
Deutschemark:	8⅞-8¾	8 15/16-13/16	9-8⅞	9 1/16-8 15/16	8½-7⅝
French Franc:	9⅛-9	9 5/16-9 3/16	9⅜-9¼	9 7/16-9 5/16	9½-8½
Swiss Franc:	9-8⅞	8 9/16-8 7/16	8¼-8⅛	8⅛-8	8-7
Yen:	8¼-8	8 3/16-8 1/16	8 3/16-8 1/16	7 13/16-11/16	7½-6⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $384.00-384.50 Close: $384.50-385.00 High: $384.50-385.00 Low: $382.40-382.90 Krugerrand: $384.00-385.00 (£195.50-196.50)

Sovereigns: Old $91.00-92.00 (£48.00-47.00) New $86.00-87.00 (£45.50-46.50)

Platinum: $404.75 (£217.15) Silver: $4.02 (£2.045) Palladium: $85.75 (£46.00)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	17286.7-17389.2
Australia dollar	2.4210-2.4246
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	423.88-424.48
Cyprus pound	0.825-0.835
Finland marka	7.00-7.06
Greece drachma	313.15-316.35
Hong Kong dollar	14.5202-14.5209
India rupee	35.40-35.80
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.0841-5.0868
Mexico peso	5610-5610
New Zealand dollar	3.1137-3.1207
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.2426-3.2463
S Africa rand (fin)	5.9079-6.0065
S Africa rand (com)	4.8531-4.8614
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.6990-1.6995
Singapore	1.7415-1.7425
Malaysia	2.7290-2.7300
Australia	1.2995-1.3007
Canada	1.1535-1.1540
Sweden	5.7880-5.7930
Norway	6.1280-6.1330
Denmark	6.0230-6.0280
W Germany	1.5670-1.5680
Switzerland	1.3578-1.3585
Netherlands	1.7660-1.7670
France	5.3375-5.3425
Japan	136.15-136.25
Italy	1170.0-1171.0
Belgium (Com)	32.28-32.32
Hong Kong	7.7940-7.7950
Portugal	136.00-136.20
Spain	97.60-97.70
Austria	11.02-11.04

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%. Schemes II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 31085	Mar 91	2448.0	2473.0	2444.0	2459.0	5044
	Jun 91	2485.0	2512.0	2485.0	2500.0	1165
	Sep 91				2538.0	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 154338	Mar 91	87.79	87.83	87.74	87.75	8377
	Jun 91	88.91	88.94	88.86	88.89	17597
	Sep 91	89.41	89.43	89.38	89.41	3565
Three Month Eurodollar Previous open interest: 45641	Mar 91	93.47	93.49	93.46	93.48	1229
	Jun 91	93.44	93.45	93.42	93.43	1587
Three Month Euro DM Previous open interest: 101432	Mar 91	90.94	91.00	90.94	90.99	4054
	Jun 91	91.09	91.13	91.07	91.10	7890
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 7259	Mar 91	96-02	96-02	96-02	96-03	2
	Jun 91	95-11	95-17	95-05	95-11	1627
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 33299	Mar 91	91-30	91-30	91-14	91-07	37
	Jun 91	92-12	92-14	91-17	91-21	19551
Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 345	Jun 91	96.20	96.28	96.01	96.01	65
German Govt Bond Previous open interest: 65349	Jun 91	85.90	85.98	85.67	85.76	36982
	Sep 91				86.04	0
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 2980	Mar 91	90.84	90.86	90.82	90.83	38
	Jun 91	90.86	90.90	90.84	90.87	301

COMMODITIES

COCOA		LONDON FOX COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB) C Czarnikow	
Mar	642-635	Mar	516-514	May	202.4-02.0
May	664-663	May	537-536	Aug	201.4-00.0
Jul	691-690	Jul	555-553	Oct	195.2-94.4
Sep	715-713	Sep	572-570	Dec	202.0-97.4
Dec	740-738	Nov	588-586	Mar	187.0-86.0
Mar	765-762	Jan	604-600	May	190.6-85.4
May	783-782	Mar	621-617		
Vol: 3367		Vol: 3905		Vol. 586	

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT Close (£/t)		BARLEY Close (£/t)		HI-PRO SOYA Close (£/t)	
Mar	129.10	Mar	118.15	Apr	117.5-17.0
May	132.10	May	121.25	Jun	115.0-14.0
Jun	134.10	Sep	107.00	Aug	117.0-16.0
Sep	110.40	Nov	110.75	Oct	120.5-19.5
Nov	113.20	Jan	113.80	Dec	125.0-23.0
Vol:	304	Vol:	46	Vol:	70

LONDON POTATO FUTURES Volume: 159

	Open	Close
Apr (£/tonne)	128.3	129.8
May	161.9	162.5

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	86.66	169.79	107.26
(+/-)	+2.34	*+17.14	-0.07
Eng/Wales:	85.77	170.52	105.83
(+/-)	+2.86	+17.02	-0.84
(%)	-9.4	-10.1	-3.5
Scotland:	84.94	165.50	111.53
(+/-)	+0.90	+15.99	+2.02
(%)	-65.9	-44.0	-12.7

* Estimated dead carcase weight

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (£/kg)

Mar	
Open:	unq
Close:	113.3
Apr	
Open:	unq
Close:	111.5
May	
Open:	unq
Close:	110.3

Volume: 100

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 5.00pm: Opec appeared to have reached some form of agreement to reduce production by about one million barrels per day. The market was not impressed.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.25	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Apr)	18.25	-0.25
Brent 15 day (May)	17.30	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.65	-0.40
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.25	-0.45

PRODUCTS (Buy/sell $/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas 1.5	240 (-5)	245 (-5)
Gasoil EEC	182 (-9)	184 (-9)
Non EEC 2H Mar	165 (-5)	167 (-8)
Non EEC 1H Apr	161 (-5)	164 (-5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	65 (n/c)	71 (n/c)
Naphtha	200 (-5)	205 (-5)

IPE FUTURES
GAS OIL

Mar	unq	Jul	155.50-55.00
Apr	159.00-58.75	Aug	157.50-58.00
May	155.50-54.75	Sep	159.50-58.00
Jun	154.50 SLR		

Vol: 10726

BRENT

Apr	18.30-18.40	Jun	16.90-17.00
May	17.45-17.50		

Vol: n/a

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 91	1740	1735	1735
Apr 91	1584	1560	1576
Jul 91	1195	1170	1177
Oct 91	1276	1275	1274

Vol: 206 lots Open interest: 3999
Dry cargo index 1771 +8

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1290.0-1291.0	1298.0-1299.0	Vol:395150
Lead (£/tonne)	330.50-331.00	339.50-340.00	88275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1181.0-1182.0	1180.0-1181.0	84325
Tin ($/tonne)	5585.0-5570.0	5665.0-5670.0	6980
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1505.0-1506.0	1538.0-1539.0	318075
Nickel ($/tonne)	8500.0-8503.0	8524.0-8526.0	8024

FOX MGMI INDEX (5pm prices)

	Bid	Offer
Mar	155.10	155.70
Apr	155.50	156.10
May	156.30	156.20

Vol: 492

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Leaders drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 11. Dealings end March 28. §Contango day April 2. Settlement day April 8.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Whitecroft	Industrials S-Z	
2	Warner	Property	
3	Bellway	Building,Roads	
4	Sketchley	Industrials S-Z	
5	Crest Nicholson	Building,Roads	
6	Ulster TV	Leisure	
7	Vinten	Industrials S-Z	
8	Blockleys	Building,Roads	
9	Eleco	Industrials E-K	
10	Renishaw	Industrials L-R	
11	Pentos	Drapery,Stores	
12	Hazlewood Foods	Foods	
13	Mowlem (John)	Building,Roads	
14	Carlton Comm	Leisure	
15	Fyffes	Foods	
16	Molins	Industrials L-R	
17	Argyll	Foods	
18	Countryside	Building,Roads	
19	Scot Met	Property	
20	Concentric	Industrials A-D	
21	Doctus	Industrials A-D	
22	Debenham Tewson	Property	
23	Wholesale Fittings	Electricals	
24	Br Polythene	Industrials A-D	
25	Land Sec	Property	
26	Black (Peter)	Industrials A-D	
27	Boots	Industrials A-D	
28	Quicks Group	Motors,Aircraft	
29	Bilton (P)	Property	
30	Macfarlane	Industrials L-R	
31	Burford	Property	
32	Carrs Milling	Foods	
33	Thames Water	Water	
34	GKN	Industrials E-K	
35	YRM	Building,Roads	
36	Sthrn Water	Water	
37	Kleen-E-Ze	Industrials E-K	
38	Ferguson Intl	Paper,Print,Adv	
39	Wiggins	Building,Roads	
40	Lister	Textiles	
41	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	
42	TNT	Transport	
43	Transport Dev	Transport	
44	Northumbrian	Water	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The winner of the £2,000 Portfolio *Platinum* prize is William Cavanagh of Runcorn, Cheshire.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

BREWERIES

BUILDING, ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E - K

L - R

S - Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 30

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

Portfolio
PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for +38 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

WATER

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

☎ 071-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

☎ 071-481 4481

ARE YOU MADE TO WIN?

At Wilson Sporting Goods we are a market leader in the manufacture and marketing of top quality world class golf, racquet sports and all related equipment and clothing.

Our products are used by professionals and amateurs alike; but are made only by *professionals*.

Our European and Sales and Marketing Headquarters are based in recently built offices at Heston, Southall and we are now looking for a competent individual to take up the post of Secretary/PA to our European Vice President.

You will have excellent organisational ability, tact, discretion – and a sense of humour.

It goes without saying that your *keyboard and shorthand skills* will be exact, and you'll have a familiarity with Wordperfect 5.1.

We would imagine that, with all these qualities, it would be unlikely that you will be under thirty.

In return, we are offering a highly attractive salary and benefits package, in addition to a first class working environment.

So if you think you're a match for us, and could stay the course, then please write with full career history and salary details to me, Charles Dalgity, Personnel Manager – Europe, Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Ltd., Harlequin Centre, Southall Lane, Southall UB2 5LY.

Wilson

MADE TO WIN

Secretary

Aberystwyth

The Royal Commission makes an Inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation, and conditions of life of the people in Wales from the earliest times. It is also responsible for the National Archaeological Survey and the National Monuments Record for Wales and recognised as the central archaeological record for the Principality.

The Secretary is the Commission's Principal Officer and is responsible for carrying out the activities and delivering the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and for the financial and general management of resources. There are about 30 staff.

Candidates must be of high academic standing in an appropriate field. They should normally have had considerable practical experience of the study of field monuments or historic buildings (or both), including the preparation of accurate surveys and descriptions as well as their publication. A capacity for and experience of general financial administration are essential. A knowledge of the Welsh language would be an advantage.

Salary will be between £32,950 – £35,600. The possibility of performance pay is under consideration.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 2 April 1991) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/8806/91.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, Wales

Personnel

c £14,500

A keen team member is sought by this blue-chip City firm to work as secretary in their lively Personnel department. You will provide friendly and enthusiastic secretarial backup to two Managers and assist in the administration of training programmes. You should have good O'levels, recognised secretarial qualifications and preferably personnel experience. Skills 80/50 wpm. Age 27-35.

Please telephone Anna Martin on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

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EXPERIENCED INTERVIEWER £ EXCELLENT

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071-588 7287

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JOSLIN ROWE Secretaries

International Flavour

£14 - £15,000 + Bens.

A professional and dedicated secretary required for an immediate start (possibly temp to perm) working within the legal division for this well-known company. No legal experience necessary but an eye for detail, efficiency and flexible approach essential along with excellent secretarial skills (min 80/50 wpm).

Stella Fisher Recruitment
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071-836 6644
(Fax: 071 379 4834)
Recruitment Consultants

Secretary/Administrator

W1 - c.£14,000

Courtenay is established as the leading executive search and selection consultancy specialising in personnel appointments. We are now looking for a well-presented, lively and diplomatic individual to support a team of two young consultants.

The work will involve extensive liaison with clients and candidates; the need is therefore for excellent organisational, administrative and communicative abilities in addition to fast, accurate keyboard skills (60wpm WP min).

If you are of "A" level calibre and have the initiative to prioritise and deal with a demanding workload, please send your full cv to Courtenay, 3 Hanover Square, London W1R 0AT, quoting ref: RC/1. No agencies, please.

Senior PA in Personnel

£16,500 + Benefits

This is an excellent opportunity for a senior secretary with good experience of working on a 1-1 basis to get involved in the running of a hectic and professional personnel department. Lots of scope for involvement and opportunities to take on high levels of responsibility. You need first class secretarial skills, a good sense of fund and you must be a brilliant organiser in your mid twenties!

Please call *Emily Hall* on 071 255 1555

MERIDIAN **(Rec Cons)**

INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT

SECRETARY/ PA TO HEAD OF DEPT

Busy Executive Director and 2 Assistants need lively, outgoing person with good shorthand and Wang WP preferred. Lots of organisation, client contact and personal work. Age 20-30.

Apply in writing to:
Amanda Maitland

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20 Grosvenor Hill
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London W1X 0HQ
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Telephone Training Consultant:
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FOOD

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Providing secretarial & administrative back-up to the Head of this internal department, you will also put your people skills and diplomatic telephone manner to full use. In addition your ideas for improving office systems will be encouraged. Age 22-27. Typing 55wpm £13,000 + bonus.

The Recruitment Company
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PA support for Chairman in Edmonton, North London. Previous Director Experience Essential.

£14,000 Just Jobs (Agy)

TEL: 081-366 9014
FAX: 081-367 3248

Personal Assistant to Managing Director

Spero Communications, one of the UK's leading independent sponsorship consultancies, require an outstanding PA. Your flexibility will include providing comprehensive secretarial support, an ability to draft correspondence and your enthusiasm and skills will enable you to take responsibility and communicate with both clients and senior executives.

Working in a stimulating and attractive environment, a competitive salary will be awarded to the right candidate.

First class presentation a prerequisite. Please send your CV and salary details to **Connie Brighton, Spero Communications Ltd., Meridian Gate, Marsh Wall, Docklands, London E14 9XT.**

LEADING SPONSORSHIP CONSULTANCY

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE LAUSANNE

The candidate must be 22-28 years old with 'A' level education and working knowledge of French. A good head for figures and attention to detail are required. Ability to use Lotus PC or willing to cross train, plus typing of 60wpm.

Must have sense of humour, work as a team, have a long term commitment to the organisation and be available for immediate relocation.

Excellent salary plus benefits.

Apply Sole Agents.

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE PA

North of England **£17,000 - £20,000**
+ Excellent Benefits

Our client, an innovative international concern, has an exciting opening for a first-class PA to realise their true potential. Operating at senior executive level, the successful candidate will provide full secretarial and organisational support within a highly motivated and professional team.

Often working under pressure, you will be called upon to use your initiative, resourcefulness and judgment in handling a demanding workload. Impeccable personal presentation, a flair for communication and a mature approach are prerequisites to this high profile appointment. A confident, outgoing personality and a good sense of humour are equally important.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate a high level of academic achievement, possess excellent shorthand and typing *skills* and be computer literate. Previous experience within a people-related function *such as Marketing*, Sales, *Human* Resources or PR would be an advantage.

This is a marvellous opportunity offering real involvement and in return for your commitment, our client offers an outstanding benefits package, including support for professional qualifications.

If you have the qualities we are seeking, please write with C.V. and current salary details to Daniels Bates Executive Secretaries, Daniels Bates Mall, Rational House, 64 Bridge Street, *Manchester M3 3DT*, quoting 91M/200T.

Interviews will be conducted in London and Manchester.

Daniels Bates
Executive Secretaries

Offices throughout the UK

COMMUNICATE WITH US!

We are a communications consultancy with offices in London and Edinburgh, responsible for video, face to face, live events and print. We need two good people immediately to join our team of 20 based at our pleasant office in Islington.

Our Chairman needs a PA who can support him in project management, financial control and general management of the business.

Our Business Development Director needs a Marketing Assistant who can combine good secretarial skills with the ability to make client contact, control our data base and manage new business pitches.

Applicants need to be bright, intelligent and well educated and have good organisational skills.

Salaries will be negotiable and include pension benefits.

Please telephone, in the first instance, either Rosie Infanti or Lucy Jewell, on 071-837 0012.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE.

Infovision

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For US Law Firm Mayfair. Good skills. Computer and Wordperfect experience essential. Non-smoker. Good salary aae plus benefits.

Send CV to Box No 3069

TO £15,000 + CO BENS

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Sarah Hodge

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£16,000 + Bonus

An interesting W1 Consultancy seek a well educated and computer literate person with admin and accounts knowledge to run their efficient office. Assist the cheerful MD dealing with confidential matters, preparing sales reports and many other duties all with a smile! Wonderful.

Call 071-434 0030

HARLEY STREET

An experienced non-smoking Secretary is required for a well established Harley Street Practice. Previous Medical Secretarial experience and WP experience an advantage. Cheerfulness and a sympathetic nature are essential. Own bright office. Salary negotiable.

Please phone Suzanne for further details on 071-935 6698.

LOFTS RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS

Requires a Secretary with WP experience to join busy but friendly office in Battersea. Estate agency/ Residential lettings experience preferred. Salary neg aae. To begin 2nd April.

Tel: Barbara Donald
071-223 5357
No Agencies

GRAY'S INN SQUARE WC1

Marketing Secretary

£14,500

We require an enthusiastic and organised secretary to work for the Marketing Director. The applicant must be confident, able to work under pressure and have an excellent telephone manner. The position is very varied and interesting.

Audio and Word Perfect experience are essential.

This position offers season ticket loan, good working conditions and two salary reviews a year.

Please write with C.V. to Lynne Walters, Personnel Manager, Bird & Bird, 2 Gray's Inn Square, London

(Strictly No Agencies)

Dealing Room

£20,000 pkg +++

We are currently recruiting Sales Assistants to work within a leading US Investment Bank.

The work is pressurised and involving and requires individuals with outgoing personalities, intelligence and excellent presentation.

If you want to earn a substantial salary and enjoy the responsibility of dealing at the sharp end of the financial markets, please ring as soon as possible.

Langs: German/Dutch useful

Age: 20-25yrs 50typing

Hanover Square: 071 408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

ANTIQUE DEALER

KENSINGTON

Require a P.A./Sales Person with good organisational abilities and some Secretarial skills. Languages and experience an advantage.

References Essential Please Reply to Box No 3056

ADMINISTRATOR/ SECRETARY

Numeric, efficient person for Battersea based Co. Varied duties inc Typing, Admin, Invoicing. Skills 80/50 wpm.

Tel: Christina
071-585-3004.

TOP PA/ SECRETARY - CHELSEA HARBOUR

AD/DESIGN AGENCY

Audio and wordperfect experience essential.

Call B.D.A. on
071-352-8186 (No Rec Cons)

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And right now, we're looking for secretaries of a similar calibre.

If you have accurate typing of 60wpm, superb communication skills, a flair for organisation and a brilliant personality, you could make a name for yourself and c£11,000 plus overtime, at the most happening Advertising Agency in town.

Please send CV's to: Liz Smith
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London
W1A 4XA

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Personnel

£18,000 pkg

A leading international bank is currently recruiting a secretary to work in personnel for two directors.

Working closely with them both, your role will involve international liaison and requires an excellent command of the English language. You will handle the confidential details of personnel systems as well as administrative responsibilities for travel and private health schemes, pay roll analysis and induction courses.

Due to constant demands on your time, your initiative, ability to prioritise and meet deadlines, and your attention to detail is essential. You must have innate self confidence to handle both the secretarial and administrative support.

You should be beautifully presented and enjoy working in a fast moving environment as part of this busy team. In return you will be exceptionally well paid and have a very exciting career. Minimum 1 year experience.

Age 20-30

Skills - shorthand useful/50 typing

Angela Mortimer, 37 Golden Square, London W1R 4AH. Tel: 071-287 7788.

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£9,500-£13,500

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Companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, call one of our Specialist Consultants on:

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PA/Secretary - Covent Garden

A unique and exciting opportunity exists for a high calibre PA/Secretary. If you possess excellent secretarial skills 100/80/Wordperfect (cross-training possible), are experienced in working at director level, have an enthusiastic and flexible attitude along with the ability to coordinate, supervise a junior and work under pressure, then please write, enclosing cv and current salary to Susan Chapman, 3 Dean Trench Street, London SW1P 3HB. (no agencies).

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DIRECTOR'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT

c.£15,000

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales is looking for an efficient and well-educated person to act as Personal Assistant to the Director of Practice Regulation.

This is a highly varied role; in addition to normal secretarial duties, you will be handling a wide range of administrative tasks, particularly in the preparation of departmental budgets, forecasts and related accounting requirements. You will be called upon to take minutes and contribute to the drafting of reports. There will also be some involvement in company secretarial work.

The importance of the position demands someone with previous experience at senior level, a high standard of administrative and word processing skills and first class writing ability. A knowledge of company secretarial work and basic accounting is desirable. You will also need the confidence and maturity to build working relationships with other departments of the Institute, outside firms and other professional bodies.

Please write, enclosing your C.V. to Mrs M Owens, Assistant Personnel Manager, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ. Tel: 071-628 7060.

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND & WALES

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£17,000 PLUS MORTGAGE SUBSIDY

This leading firm of Asset Managers are looking for a PA to work at senior level in their UK fund Management Division.

Working primarily for a senior director you will provide a full back-up role to this demanding but charming individual. Your experience in the financial world will enable you to undertake research projects and liaise at the highest level internally in the company and externally throughout the City.

If you have the ability to react fast to an ever changing series of requirements and enjoy the buzz of the financial world, call us now. Skills: 90/50. Age: 25 - 35

City Office: 071-726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

LEGAL PA/SECRETARY

£16,000

Join this very successful, international firm of Solicitors as a 'floating' secretary. Your day is guaranteed to be busy as you'll become involved in a variety of duties. 70 wpm Audio needed together with experience in Commerical Litigation, or Corporate Law.

Please telephone 071-248 3744
for more information
2 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9EE

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LEGAL DIVISION

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Recruitment Consultants

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LONDON SW: PA with English shorthand and European languages (GERMAN best) to assist Chief Executive. TV or advertising background. To £15,000.

LONDON Central: Experienced Secretary (25-35) with European languages (SPANISH best) - a poised team player, computer literate, for US co. To £16,000.

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071 836 3794
22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

PUBLIC RELATIONS JUNIOR SECRETARY

To work with two executives handling accounts in the construction industry. Must be good administrator, fast and accurate typist. Shorthand preferred.

Send cv to: Julie Coshall
Marshall Communications, 56 Britton Street,
London EC1M 5NA
or phone: 071 253 2268

PERSONAL ASSISTANT FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL

INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

A mature and well-educated person is needed to run the Director General's busy office, and to co-ordinate the work of a secretary and a chauffeur. The position involves liaison at the highest level of business and politics. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate energy, experience and authority and the ability to become completely involved in the activities of the Institute. Excellent shorthand and word processing skills needed. Competitive salary plus generous benefits.

Please apply in writing to: **Mrs Fiona Mansfield, Personnel Officer, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED.**

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£15-17,000 a.a.e. + Banking Benefits

Assist the Head of Property and Facilities for this major City firm. As lynch pin within this busy department you will be responsible for efficient organising of the offices. Compose own correspondence and general secretarial duties. 100/70.

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Addresse: Müller International Ltd.
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(no agencies)

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Call Mrs Baker on 071-620 0690.

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Milton Keynes

German - c£17,000

Director of Finance and Administration at prestigious car importers requires a Senior Secretary with good written and spoken German. You will provide a comprehensive bilingual back-up, liaising extensively with senior personnel both here and abroad. Aged 35-50 with an impeccable track record and financial experience, you must have German and English shorthand and live within easy reach of Milton Keynes. Please telephone Nicola Wheelham on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill
Multilingual

GERMAN - OUT OF LONDON £17,000 + BENS
Our client, a very successful intern. co. located in Milton Keynes requires a Senior Sec. to assist German Director. Organisational & admin. ability very important as well as German shorthand. German Mother tongue pref, 80/50 wpm, Age 35+.

ARABIC SENIOR £15,000 + PCKGE
As an efficient, experienced Sec. to the Executive of this intern Co, you will use your organisational skills, fluent Arabic (spoken & written) & shorthand. The ability to work well under pressure & to show initiative is important. 80/60 wpm req'd, Age 26+.

FRENCH - CITY £13,500 + BENS
Fluent written & spoken French with 1 year working experience? This is an ideal opportunity to work at senior level, getting fully involved from day one, arranging diaries/trips/liaising with France... S/hand in both languages, excellent telephone manner & good communications skills required + 100/60 wpm.

Boyce Bilingual
071-287 6060

PRINTEMPS A PARIS "OPEN EVENING"

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If you are a language graduate or linguist with good secretarial skills and are interested in a career abroad, please telephone for an interview, or come to our Open Evening:

BILINGUAL SECRETARIES ABROAD
Thursday, 14 March 1991
6 pm Welcome Drink
6.30 - 7.30 pm Talk/'Question Time'
Please tel: 071-351 6931 or fax: 071-376 8240
SHEILA BURGESS INTERNATIONAL Personnel Counsellors
The Power House, Alpha Place, London SW3 5SZ
(nearest tube Sloane Sq/S Ken)

MOVE TO FRANCE? £ neg.

The expanding European operation of this market leader means that there is an opening for a flexible, teamplayer in their offices a stone's throw from the Swiss border. The busy M.D. and his assistant need a confident, mature personality to provide them with secretarial and administrative support. English shorthand and very good spoken French essential. Skills: 90/55. Age: 25-35. Interviews in the UK.

THE RECRUITMENT COMPANY
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English/French bi-lingual WP/Audio/SH Secretary
£13,500+++

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International Secretaries
174 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB
Tel: 071 491 7100
Fax: 071 491 2875
Recruitment Consultants

FRENCH - PARIS

Bilingual Sec to set up and run office in Paris for London based Co. Varied & interesting post with responsibility. **£16½K Equiv.**

GERMAN - LOCAL
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LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES LTD
54-62 Regent St, W1. TEL: 071-287 0424

ARABIC/ English secretary, 20's-50's for expanding City firm. No shorthand, but spoken and typed Arabic. c.£13,000. Call Ann Walker on 071-377 2666. Secretaries Plus - The Secretarial Consultants.

DANISH spkg experienced Legal Secretary with excl typing/ audio/wp skills reqd. City based £neg aae. Call Cavell Bilingual Rec Cons 071-255 3277.

EUROPEAN languages - to £17,000 plus exc bens. Great opportunity within US company as sec/assistant. Any european languages are useful - especially Spanish. Highly developed communication skills are essential for international liaison, along with solid experience of WP systems as there is the scope to train to supervisor level. Call International Secretaries on 071-491 7100 (Rec Cons).

DUTCH spkg sales assistant to provide admin support for broker. Financial exp/WP skills essential. Age 22-30. Salary £14,000 + benefits. Call Eagle Recruitment on 071-823 9255

FRENCH biling asst/sec for newly set-up office of expanding French Co. Emphasis on sales support & office admin. Fluency & previous sales exp also ess for client contact. No sh. Excl prospects. £15,000 + excl bens. The Language Specialists, Merrow Emp Agy 071 499 3939.

FRENCH biling sec sought by MD of Intl W End Co. Excl sec skills incl French + English SH + Audio. A lively personality + outstanding presentation + outstanding presentation will win the day. 25+ £15,000. The Language Specialists, Merrow Emp Agy. 071 499 3939.

FRENCH bilingual Sec.to arrange meetings, travel, diaries & attend social events. Gd presentation & Sec skills of 80/60. £15,000 neg. Link Language Appts 071-408 2150

GERMAN Spk PA - £15,000. Arrange social events, conferences and entertain clients when you join these two young directors as PA. Enjoy total involvement and become an integral part of the team. English telephone 071 240 3511 Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

GERMAN £14,000 aae for small private company in W2. Mature allrounder, flexible, outgoing and cheerful who enjoys a variety of duties and responsibilities. Needs lots of initiative, good telephone manner and 50wpm typing. International Secretaries 071-491 7100.

ITALIAN Biling S/H Sec for Int Co in Staines. c£16,000. Zircon Personnel 071-931 8066.

GERMAN MT asst to Director of Intl Investment Co. European Sec Diploma pref & some exp in banking. Excl opp to get involved for bright 2nd jobber £13,000 + bens. The Language Specialists, Merrow Emp Agy 071 499 3939.

GERMAN bilingual Sec. German SH ess for Dir of Intl Co in Milton Keynes. Aged 30-50. £17,000 + perks Link Language Appts 071-408 2150.

INTERNATIONAL Company Nr. Green Park need positive and intelligent Secretary/PA with fluent french for exciting new role. Excellent presentation, professional approach plus good speaking voice essential to work for two high level executives - one of whom is French. Good shorthand, occasional audio and the aptitude to learn graphics/spreadsheet packages for Corporate Communication. Sal. c.£16,000 + £700 towards travel and 5 weeks holiday. Please call Jo Toben, 071-629 9648 King & Toben Recruitment Consultants

LINGUISTIC Secretaries £16,000. Use your languages (either French, German or Spanish) together with your legal experience within this International firm of solicitors. 70 wpm audio needed. Please telephone 071 240 3511 Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants.

SPANISH spkg experienced Secretary with Eng MT, excl typing, audio & Eng S/H. City based. Age 25+. Must enjoy working independently. £13K + bens. Call Cavell Bilingual Rec Cons 071-255 3277.

ITALIAN spk Receptionist £10,000 plus perks. One of the leading Italian Banks urgently requires a young, friendly Receptionist with a warm and outgoing personality. You need to have 6 months working experience and computer literacy. Please telephone 071 240 3511 Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

ITALIAN biling sec req by director of Intl City Co. Fluency is essential for lots of client liaison. Great working environment, for 2nd jobber with prev finance exp. To £13,000 + bens. The Language Specialists, Merrow Emp Agy. 071 499 3939.

COMMUNITY CREME

English Heritage

Personal Secretary - Conservation Group

Salary £10,978 to £12,865

English Heritage is England's main national body responsible for the conservation of historic buildings and ancient monuments. It aims to secure the preservation of the country's architectural and archaelogical heritage and to promote the public's enjoyment and knowledge of the historic environment.

We have a vacancy for a Personal Secretary in our Conservation Group. The successful candidate would be responsible to the heads of both and South east and South-west regions.

Your duties will include acting as first point of contact with the public, dealing with correspondence and assisting in the general co-ordination of the regional teams.

Applicants must have experience of carrying out Personal Secretary duties. A high level of organisational and communication skills and typing proficiency is essential.

This post is currently based in London but we intend to relocate our Headquarters to Nottingham in 1993/94.

Benefits include a non-contributory, index-linked pension scheme with life cover, an interest-free season ticket loan and flexi-time system.

Please send CV with covering letter and details of current salary to Joanne Mayers Personnel, 6th Floor, 18 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1AF quoting Ref. R/34/91.

Closing date: 5 April 1991

Interviews will be held: 26 April 1991

FIRST CREME

COMPUTER COMPANY JUNIOR SECRETARY/TELEPHONIST

WEST END up to £10,000

The Software Development Division of this thriving company requires a Junior Secretary/Telephonist, initially on a temporary basis. The work involves, primarily, word processing as well as incoming telephone calls and a range of administrative duties.

You must be educated to GCSE Level, with pass grades in English and Mathematics, with a typing qualification of at least RSA II standard, some experience of word processing and a minimum typing speed of 50 wpm.

The work processing content of this role is complex and challenging and this is a good opportunity to obtain training in a variety of software packages. You will be part of our team of computer professionals and must be willing to work hard and take on responsibility. It is likely that the appointment could be made permanent in due course.

Please telephone Julie Edwards on 071 494 0010, or send your CV to:
Independent Computer Solutions Limited, 36-38 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PD

SUPER SECRETARIES

LEGAL P.A. £17,500+

Leading City Law firm seeks P.A. to assist "Head of Notepaper" Partner. Sound Company/ Corporate Law Secretarial exp. is essential together with knowledge of all "social graces".

071 242 7654 until 10pm.
Legal People Agy.

£18,500. + bens for Titled Businessman working in beautiful SW1 offices. A two secretary position in small environment, very busy and interesting, requiring good allrounder with 110sh/65 typ & WP. Impeccable background and work record. (late 20's - 30's) Gala Assocs Rec Cons 379 0344 or Fax 379 0801.

ADMINISTRATOR/Sec required by a high profile Investment Company. Excellent personal presentation, a solid admin. background and typing skills essential. Age 22-28. Salary: £14K plus £5,000 benefits. Please call 071 283 0799 Cross Selection.

"BOTTOMS UP" Working for this well known International Beverage Company. Busy environment lovely offices based in the City. Working at Director level for communicative team where a young secretary with good S/H will be very much involved with strong links in marketing. Salary £13,500-£14,000 aae + Benefits. Age 24-27 Norma Skemp Recruitment 071-222-5091.

CAREER Opp for ambitious Sec with poise and personality. Very involved role with famous US drinks co. SH/WP 80/55 essen Age 25ish £14,000. Norton Rec Cons 071-823 2552

CARING PERSON required to assist with the essential work of a leading charity. A sympathetic nature is essential, as are good organisational and secretarial skills. As a charity, salary reflects the need to minimise overhead and maximise resources for the welfare of the beneficiaries. Hence, sadly, £11,500 pa. Please call Ian Archibald (071) 491-1868 La Creme Consultants

CHAIRMAN'S Secretary c£16,000 for City based Commodity Traders. A varied role requiring excellent SH/WP (min 100/50) and strong admin experience. German and/or French useful. Age 25 - 35. Norton Rec Cons 071-823 2552

CONFIDENTIAL Secretary needed to work in Chairman's office of blue-chip City stockbrokers. Handle a myriad of duties encompassing a high volume of WP (audio), organisation of in-house functions and senior level internal liaison. Discretion and diplomacy are essential attributes and a willingness to muck in will be appreciated. Straightforward 9-5 day salary £12,000 + mortgage subsidy and good bens. Age 25-40. Please telephone Melanie Hill on 071-256 5018. Hobstones Recruitment Consultants.

EXECUTIVE Secretary £16,000 - for international company to work at Partner level. Deputising for Partner, diary management and meetings, client liaison etc. Good secretarial skills (Audio 60 wpm) Age 25+. Call Graduate Appointments (Rec Cons) on 071-379 0333.

LITIGATION Secretary. This top firm of City Solicitors require an above average Secretary to work in their Litigation Department. They require someone who has fast, accurate keyboard skills who can remain cool and efficient in an emergency. The firm offers this 'special person', an excellent salary complemented with additional benefits, and offices second to none. Age to mid thirties. c£16,000. Please call 071 405 4747 Bell Yard Recruitment

LEGAL Department of well-known City firm require a quick and efficient team secretary. Your duties will include organising diaries and travel arrangements and general secretarial back-up. Aged 23-40, you should have accurate typing of 60/ audio/ wp and good legal experience. Salary £14,500 + large mortgage subsidy. Please telephone Belinda Langrishe on 071-588 3535 Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

£16,500 Major TV Co Director's PA. Personnel/ Admin involvement. Very hectic. Skills 100/60. Age 26-35. Call 408 1492 Albany Appointments

HE is absolutely charming! As MD of an expanding investment firm, he is looking for a PA with a 'City' background good shorthand and DW4 experience. £16,000 + mortgage subsidy. Call Nan Myers on 071 377 2666 Secretaries Plus - The Secretarial Consultants.

MATURE Secretary is sought to assist the business partner of a small, professional firm in SW1. Knowledge of accounts and word processing essential, shorthand a bonus. Salary £12,000pa. 4 wks hols and flexi hours. Interviewing now. Please contact OV Selection (Rec Cons) on 071-828 8345 or fax your CV to 071-976 6636.

£15,000 + M Sub SH Sec - City Bank Director level Age 28-35. 224 6696 Dulcie Simpson Appts

£16,000 + other benefits, including membership to lovely health club if you have 'head-hunting' experience and have good SH and typing with super personality and are used to working as a member of a team please call us now. Lovely offices in Westminster. Norma Skemp Recruitment 071-222-5091.

PA c£15,500. Top financial firm needs confident individual with excellent secretarial skills (100/65) High level involvement. Working knowledge of French and German useful Age 24-30 Good benefits. Call Graduate Appointments (Rec Cons) on 071-379 0333.

PERSONNEL/ Training Sec. Skills 80/60 Superb City Co. Friendly team Age 25-35. Sal £13,500 + exc benefits. Call Albany Appts 493 8611.

SUPERWOMAN for high flier in Corporate Finance. Super boss needs polished, professional secretary of immaculate appearance with shorthand, audio and WP skills, plus an amiable personality and the ability to be the 'JIB of all trades' You must be self motivated and capable of working alone. Offices based near Baker Street. Preferred age range 25 to 40. Salary £16,000 negotiable. Paragon please call Patricia on 071-606 2291. C&S Personnel Consultants.

POISED PA. £17k + £5k benefits. Immaculate presentation, stable working background and a flexible attitude are pre-requisites to secure this demanding role. Working for a tough Senior Director of a leading City Bank, you will be required to liaise constantly at senior level, carry out research projects and generally provide a total support. Sh 90 wpm. Age 22-30 Please tel. 071-283 2092 Cross Selection.

PR Co need career Secretary min 3 years similar exp at Director level. First class secretarial skills, WP expertise, highly competent overall admin, client liaison organising events etc. plus liaison Accountants. Strong charming personality. To £16,000 Joyce Guiness Rec Cons 071-589 8807

SECRETARY in Top London Hotel. Use your excellent WP skills and proven efficiency to ensure the smooth running of this busy Mayfair office. In assisting the General Manager, you must be well spoken, well presented competent and confident with an excellent command of the English Language. Secretarial experience in a hotel preferred. Age 26-40. Salary £16,000 plus benefits. Phone: 071-734 7282 Mary Overton Recruitment Ltd.

SECRETARY - c£14,000k Holborn Small Corp Finance Co. looking for sparky, intelligent sec to work for Director and 1 Exec. Multimate, numeracy & s/h pref. Call Desktop Recruitment on 071-386 4133

WELL Educated PA to £16,000. To join a prestigious firm of executive search consultants and assist a brilliant senior consultant. Set up client and candidate meetings/assignments. 60 wpm audio ability and rusty shorthand needed. Please telephone 071 240 3511 Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

NON - SECRETARIAL

LADIES FASHION SHOP

NEW KINGS ROAD

Requires an experienced Manageress (25+) who enjoys the challenge of a busy shop & motivating a team. c.£12,000.

Please call 071 731 7770 for further details.

UNTING. shooting, fishing - amous field sports retailer eeks bright, polished Assistant o join small, exclusive, Mayfair et-up. Lovely varied role inc. ooking after customers, liaising vith VIP clients, handling nquiries, some stock-taking k. Professional, friendly pproach essential. Age 21+. alary to £12,000. Please call 71-493 5787 Gordon Yates onsultants.

WIMBLEDON

Drivers required to ferry tennis stars. Need excellent knowledge of West End and South West London. 3 years driving experience on full spotless licence.

Reply to Box No 2864

I am a busy mother earning between £200 and £250 per week with no capital outlay. Interested? Tel 071 727 9160

LIBRARY Manager. A major City Company seeks a Chartered Librarian with a minimum of 4 years experience, to manage and develop a tax library and supervise staff. A background in the legal or commercial field is preferred. Age to 35 years. c£22,500. Please call 071 405 4747 Bell Yard Recruitment

PART-TIME. Knightsbridge office requires personable assistant preferably age 25-45 dealing mainly with American corporate clients. Drivers licence essential. Call 581 5111 ext 310.

RECRUITMENT Consultant. A privately run Secretarial Consultancy has an opening for an intelligent, personable Interviewer to join them, and work in delightful offices just off the Strand. Our client base is made up mainly of professional companies and we look for someone with a similar background. Salary is negotiable, with an excellent commission structure offered. For more details, please call Audrey Dicker 071 405 4747 Bell Yard Recruitment

PROPERTY Experience. Are you a redundant Estate Agent pref with Residential Letting exp? Our International City Client needs you for 3-6 mths. Exp with London Market Relocation problem ess. Immediate Start. Salary £Neg. Appointments Bi-Language 071-734-3380.

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TEMPING TIMES

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

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Are you temping purposefully because you are planning to do something like travelling or may be you are waiting for that one-off job that you know will take time? If the answer is "Yes" and you have 55+ typing on a *WP*, please come and work for our special Clients: they are in everything from exclusive fashion to Advertising, from Entrepreneurs to Politicians, from top Banks to Television... long & short bookings. If you are between *18* and *28* and serious about Temping AND the people you temp for matter, could we please hear from you very soon!

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MICROSOFT Word Temps. Top rates, top clients for high calibre temporary secretaries. Immediate bookings. Call Anthony Cook Bureau (Rec Cons) 071-248 3404.

OUT OF TOWN

GUILFORD - £13,000+. 2nd Jobber with enthusiasm and team spirit required to work in busy, young office. Typing 50wpm. Senior Secretaries 071-499 0092.

RECEPTION SELECTION

ADVERTISING And Design Agency. West End based, need Receptionist. French useful. £10,000 Call Sarah Taylor on 071-287 0988.

A LEVELS? Good spoken French? Excellent presentation? Numerate? Initiative? Reception experience? If so please call The Business People on 071-792 3939 (Rec Cons) For a position with prospects. Salary to £12,000.

RECEPTIONIST/WP. City Insurance Company Mid 20's +. Wordperfect experience an asset. Must be well spoken and groomed. Excel Recruitment 081-518-4444.

RECEPTIONIST - £12,600 + clothing. Superb opening within this major City firm for an experienced receptionist with impeccable presentation and a warm confident personality. Age 21-30. For further details 071 489 0889 Career Design

RECEPTIONISTS - We are currently looking for receptionists to work for two of our major city clients. Good experience in a front line position, excellent presentation and a friendly confident attitude are essential for both positions. 50wpm typing is required for one of the vacancies. Age 20-27. Salaries from £11,500 to £12,800. Please telephone Anna Martin on 071-588 3535. Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

YOUNG enthusiastic Receptionist required for busy W1 Ad Agency, salary £9,000 per annum call Debbie on 071 631 5377. No agencies.

PART TIME VACANCIES

GERMAN SH/band essential. Experienced bilingual secretary. Mornings only pro tem. Contact Polyglot Agency for Language Secretaries 071-247 5242

PART-TIME Managing Director level, 3 consecutive days, pref 80/50, well spoken, bright and intelligent. c£9,000. Senior Secretaries 071-499 0092.

W2 Estate Agents seeks sec for 2 or 3 days per week. 9-30/5 (neg) WP exp pref but not ess 4 wks hol pa. Salary £50 per day. Mrs Bennett 071-723 7696

PART Time Careers Ltd. We have vacancies available for S/H or audio secretaries, accountants/ book-keepers, manual and computerised, accounts clerks and receptionists. If you are seeking a part-time permanent job in central London working mornings/ afternoons, 1/2/3 or 4 days per week or part of every day. Phone Part-Time Careers for an appointment on 071-437 3103. 10 Golden Square, London W1.

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Roussillon, Carcassonne. Near sea and mountains, city centre 2 minutes, near motorway. Set in 4936 sqm wooded grounds (pine-trees, orchard...) surrounded by vineyard. Panoramic view. Residential area. One-storey house, 126 sqm habitable : lounge with fireplace, fully fitted kitchen, linen room, 3 bedrooms with cupboards, shower, bathroom, garage, south facing terrace, barbecue, central heating. Convertible attic. 960 000 FF. Tel. : 56 08 10 60 (after 8 pm). REF 401

Pas de Calais, Vimy. Arras 10 kms, near a private forest and all commodities. Luxury 2-storey house, quality fittings. 198 sqm habitable. 8 rooms : Lounge/dining-room, study, bedroom, fitted kitchen, bathroom, shower. Upstairs : 4 bedrooms, 2 showers. Full basement, 4-car garage. House set in 1000 sqm wooded, landscaped and enclosed grounds. Suitable for 2 separated flats or liberal profession. South facing, peaceful, near planned TGV Arras/Paris (55 mn), Arras/Lille (15 mn), airport. 1 700 000 FF. REF 407

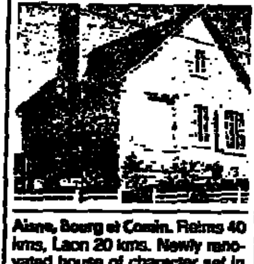
Côte d'Azur, Antibes, Juan les Pins. Residential area, 6th and last floor, 140 sqm villa on the roof : entrance, lounge, dining-room, fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitted kitchen. 140 sqm terrace, wide view over the Esterelle's mount to the Italian border. 2 cellars; 3-car garage. 3 200 000 FF. Tel. : 1 42 83 40 31. REF 411

Finistère, Morgat-sud. 300 m from harbour, beaches, shops. In Kador's wood, peaceful. Set in 2250 sqm enclosed and wooded grounds. Stone-house built in 1950. Inside and outside restorated in 1987. 90 sqm habitable + 35 sqm attic + 25 sqm separated garage. Ground floor : fitted kitchen, living-room, sitting-room. 1st floor : 3 bedrooms, bathroom. Electric heating. 680 000 FF. REF 413

Basse Normandie, Calvados. Vallée d'Auge. 2,5 km from Livarot. House set in 1 ha wooded grounds with 3000 sqm meadows + swimming pool. Peaceful area. 160 sqm habitable : large living-room, fireplace, dining-room, fitted kitchen, loggia. Upstairs : 4 bedrooms, mezzanine, 2 bathrooms. Telephone, heating oil. 1 300 000 FF. REF 437

Alpes de Haute-Provence. Manosque 10 kms, village 1 km. Old renovated house. 165 sqm habitable, set in 5000 sqm wooded and enclosed grounds. 5 rooms, electric heating, four aspects, barn, garage. Fishing and hunting in the nearby. Soon available. 750 000 FF. REF 419

Brittany, Côtes d'Armor, Erquy. Saint-Brieuc's bay, fishing port. Near city centre and beach. Set in 430 sqm enclosed garden. Granite-stone house with slates, fully updated. 3 levels : Ground floor : studio, shower, garage. 1st floor : Living-room, kitchen, large terrace (3,5x7m), wide view, shower. 2nd floor : 2 bedrooms, shower. 680 000 FF. REF 414



Aisne, Bourg et Comin. Reims 40 kms, Laon 20 kms. Newly renovated house of character set in 3000 sqm landscaped and enclosed grounds. 400 sqm habitable. Ground floor : living-room with exposed beams, dining-room opening onto a terrace, fitted kitchen. Upstairs : 3 bedrooms, bathroom, attic. Basement with garage. Outbuildings : 140 sqm fitted out as offices on two levels, beams. 1 500 000 FF. Tel. : 23 24 40 45. REF 417

Hérault, Cap d'Agde. Studio, sea front. 1st floor, fitted for 4 persons. Tennis court, swimming-pool, all facilities. Reduced lawyer's fees. 210 000 FF. Tel. : 1 43 50 13 79. REF 421

Essonne, Igny. 20 kms south of Paris, 20 mn drive from Paris. 2 motorways. 160 sqm habitable set in 400 sqm ground. Peaceful and residential area, greenery. Details and photos available. 1 800 000 FF. REF 423

Normandy, Pacy/Eure. 80 kms west of Paris by motorway. City centre, 200 sqm comfortable house. Vaulted cellar. Set in 930 sqm walled grounds, garages. Hundred-year-old magnolias. 1 150 000 FF. Tel. : 32 36 13 07. REF 424

Brittany, Guemene/Scorff. 15th-century restorated house, 30 min. from the sea. Castle vestiges. Inside tower with double revolution staircases (rare : less than 10 in France), stone, beams, fireplace. 240 sqm habitable on the ground. 2 storeys : 2 shops, 2 lounges, kitchen, 3 bedrooms (one further in mezzanine), bathroom, playroom, attic, terrace, cellars, garden, cupboards. 840 000 FF. Tel. : 97 51 24 09. REF 425

Basse Normandie, Manche. Carolles, 5585 sqm property, 500 m from the sea. 4-room house. 600 000 FF. Tel. : 94 68 24 55. REF 426

Auvergne, Puy-de-Dôme. Stone-built country house. 6 rooms, shower, heating, cellar, garage. 1800 sqm fenced garden + adjoining grounds. Outbuildings, peaceful area, near lake, ski, fishing. 450 000 FF. REF 427

Savoie, Plagne Bellecote. 3 flats communicating with each other, 5 rooms, 15 beds. 85 sqm habitable. 8th. and last floor. Full south facing. Balconies. 3 fitted kitchen, 3 bathrooms. Good condition. Close to the slopes, near all commodities. Many cupboards. 3 adjoining storerooms, 3 ski-drawers. Olympic station. Fully furnished. 1 250 000 FF. Tel. : 1 46 02 95 00 (after 20 pm). REF 429

Manche, Biancy. Old 4-room farmhouse with pantry and cowsheds. Requires some refurbishment. Situated outside the village. Set in 5000 sqm grounds. 300 000 FF. Tel. : 1 45 85 50 32 or 1 46 38 73 00. REF 431

Seine-Saint-Denis, Blanc-Mesnil. 15 mn Paris or Roissy by motorway or RER. House built in 1985, set in 340 sqm grounds. Ground floor : entrance, 3 rooms, kitchen area, shower, garage. Upstairs : 4 rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom, convertible attic. Good isolation, double glazing, pleasure garden, outbuildings. 1 400 000 FF. REF 432

Périgord, Dordogne. 20 km Montignac. Old house of character in the process of being renovated. Set in 2500 sqm grounds. 160 sqm habitable. Fireplaces, old beams, convertible attics, barn, sheepfold, small farmhouse. 1 km from village with all commodities. 500 000 FF. Tel. : 1 60 12 15 13. REF 433

Pyrénées Atlantiques, Biarritz nearby. 240 m2 in castle on river near medieval town. Private patio + garden. Large park, tennis/pool possible. Beach, Pyrénées, Spain 30 min., ski 1 hour, golf, riding school, healthspa 10 min., motorway 15 min. 500 000 FF. Tel. : 59 54 75 15. REF 434

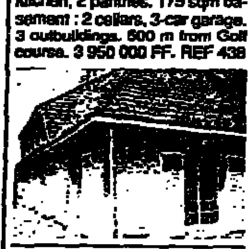
Pyrénées Orientales, Ceret. 5 km city centre. Luxury villa set in 5400 sqm grounds. Unimpeded view. Large living with open fireplace, study. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 showers, double garage, cellars, terraces, covered barbecue, swimming-pool. 2 550 000 FF. REF 435

Paris, 11. arrondissement. Gongourt station. Fine free-stone block of flats. 3rd. floor. Yard. 2-room flat, 40 sqm habitable : entrance, kitchen, living-room, bedroom, bathroom, fireplace, wooden floor. A lot of character. 780 000 FF. REF 439

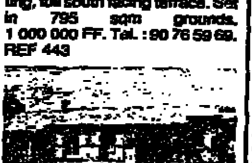
Cévennes, Gard. Newly built villa set in 725 sqm grounds. 92 sqm habitable : entrance hall, living-room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, cupboards, garage, electric heating, well isolated. Quality fittings. Near all facilities. Reduced fees. 850 000 FF. REF 440.

Brittany, Côtes d'Armor. Trebeurden 3 kms, 10 kms from Perros Guirec. Old granite-built farmhouse set in 5000 sqm wooded grounds, direct acces to the sea. Fine living-room, large fireplace, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, greenhouse. 1 500 000 FF. Tel. : 1 43 86 13 39. REF 418

Essonne, Wissous. 10 km from Porte d'Orléans. Property set in 1100 sqm landscaped and enclosed garden. 260 sqm habitable : marble entrance and living-room, oak fitted, marble study, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large kitchen, 2 pantries. 175 sqm basement : 2 cellars, 3-car garage. 3 outbuildings. 800 m from Golf course. 3 950 000 FF. REF 438



Provence, Vaucluse. Robion, regional park of Luberon. Newly built one-storey villa. 68 sqm habitable : lounge, dining-room, 3 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, shower, garage, cellar, electric heating, full south facing terrace. Set in 795 sqm grounds. 1 000 000 FF. Tel. : 90 76 59 69. REF 443



Hauts-de-Seine, Pont de Neuilly. Fine 3-room flat with view onto the Seine. Built in 1984. 75 sqm + 10 sqm terrasse. Large french windows, double glazing. Oak fitted kitchen, marble bathroom. Double car park, lock up, cellar. Close to mainline bus and underground station. Low fees. 500 m from tennis courts and park. 2 500 000 FF. Tel. : 1 42 72 68 22. REF 441

Basse Normandie, Calvados. Lison. 11 km from the sea, 11 km Isigny-sur-Mer. Large normanstyle house set in 1 ha grounds (40 apple trees). 12 bedrooms, 4 fireplaces, sitting-room, dining-room. 600 000 FF. REF 444

Languedoc, Hérault. La Grande Motte. 15 min. from Montpellier airport, near international golf course. City centre. Luxury flat, 280 sqm habitable + terraces, at the top of a pyramamid building. Garage, unimpeded view onto the sea. 5 100 000 FF. Tel. : 67.56.98.40 or 1.47.54.91.87. REF 447

Champagne. 4 km from Bar-sur-Seine. - English - motorway A26 (Calais-Marseille). Property : old 400 sqm Champagne-style house. Ground floor : large kitchen, 2 fireplaces, beams, bathroom, boiler, 2 bedrooms. 1st floor : divisible lounge 3 + 2 bedrooms, attic, oil central heating. 300 sqm commercial premises, suitable for diverse activites (artistic, craft, hotel, restaurant, club) + small single-storey house. 17 km from three lakes Forêt d'Orient, sailing, fishing. 850 000 FF. Tel. : 90.85.67.34. REF 448

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Bourgogne, Saône-et-Loire. Louhans, fully renovated block of flats. Hotel (16 rooms), 2-star restaurant (120 places), bar, lounge. French style ceiling in dining-room and entrance hall. 10-car garage, accommodation. Main road between Chalon-sur-Saône and Genève. 1 300 000 FF. Tel. : 85 91 51 61. REF 430

Provence, Var. Bormes-Les-Mimosas, private domain Cap Benat. 3100 sqm building land, 45 x 65 sqm, east/west facing. 15% slope. Oaks, cork-oaks. View onto the sea. Water, electricity. Planning permission villa 310 sqm. Residential area, tennis court, warden. 1 750 000 FF. REF 436

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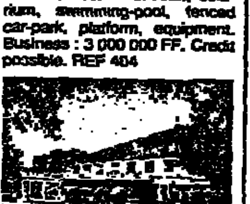

Spain, Murcia La Manga. Quality fitted villa, 250 sqm habitable : 4 bedrooms, terrace, bathroom, large kitchen, lounge with fireplace. East/south-west facing. Lightened swimming-pool 8x5m, private tennis court, 4-car garage, near beach and golf course. 1 230 000 FF. Tel. : 1 45 97 51 68 or 1 69 38 63 80. REF 403

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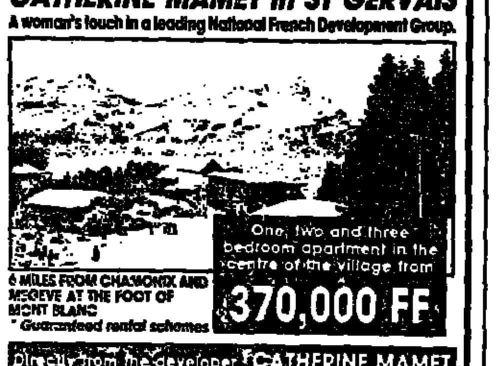

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A spring revival

The fall in interest rates and the Ideal Home Exhibition opening tomorrow are a boost to the housing market, says **Christopher Warman**

Now is the time when a young person's fancy turns to thoughts of buying a new home. That at least is the earnest wish of the house-builders, who have been suffering for two years.

Environment department figures published last week showed that only 12,300 homes were started in Britain during January, nearly 2,000 fewer than a year earlier, and that the number of starts during the three months November-January was 7 per cent lower than the figure for the previous three months.

This month, however, the New Homes Marketing Board, a private house-builders' organisation, held a new homes fortnight, and tomorrow the Ideal Home Exhibition opens its doors at Earls Court to offer opportunities to those who hope the worst of the slump is over. Builders point to the ending of the Gulf war and falling inflation and interest rates as signs that confidence will soon return to the housing market.

When that happens, there will be no shortage of advice for potential buyers. The Ideal Home Exhibition has a variety of show houses, all timber-framed, mostly in kit form for self-build, and including a thatched cottage designed by Potton to reflect the East Anglian style. There is also an "eco-pavilion" featuring a converted Victorian terrace house showing how homes can be made more environmentally friendly and reduce energy consumption by an estimated 80 per cent.

Builders are always trying to spot trends and establish what buyers want. Research by Prowting Homes, the south of England builder, indicates that the kitchen is the most important room, followed by the bathroom. Most people now want two bathrooms, and in larger houses they want three. They demand a garden but appear to want to avoid the heavy work, preferring lightly rotovated soil when they move in, and ready-turfed if possible. Then they can go straight round to the garden centre, stock up with plants.

The conservatory is another status symbol, as well as being a joy in itself. Monarch Aluminium, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, has named its garden range Eden. The prices for its glazed aluminium conservatories start at £2,139 for small models and £4,499 for larger ones.

An increasing number of companies are bullish about housing market prospects in general. Berkeley Homes, operating mainly in the south, reports an upsurge in interest in its schemes. The group has been quietly acquiring plots in the recent difficult months, and now has 1,300 that it is preparing to develop.

Christopher Hill, the managing director of Saxon Homes, the housing arm of Blue Circle Properties, says the latest interest rate cut, and others that are expected, will bring back confidence. "They will make houses just that bit more affordable, and will help to cut buyers' overheads," Mr Hill says. He thinks more people will want to buy, particularly in the southeast, "where at current levels houses offer very good value for money".

Hassall Homes produced record profits last year while most of its competitors reported losses or reduced profits. The company is strong in the Midlands and north of England, where land prices are lower, and has been sheltered from the worst effects of the recession. Hassall is now planning to expand and says: "Our research shows there will be a huge demand for houses, especially detached properties in a green and leafy setting."

Research carried out for the company by the Henley Centre shows seven groups of purchasers, ranging from the "traditional upmarket" customers to "nest-builders" (young couples keen on DIY), and including those called "net curtain" buyers (people who prefer an already decorated property).

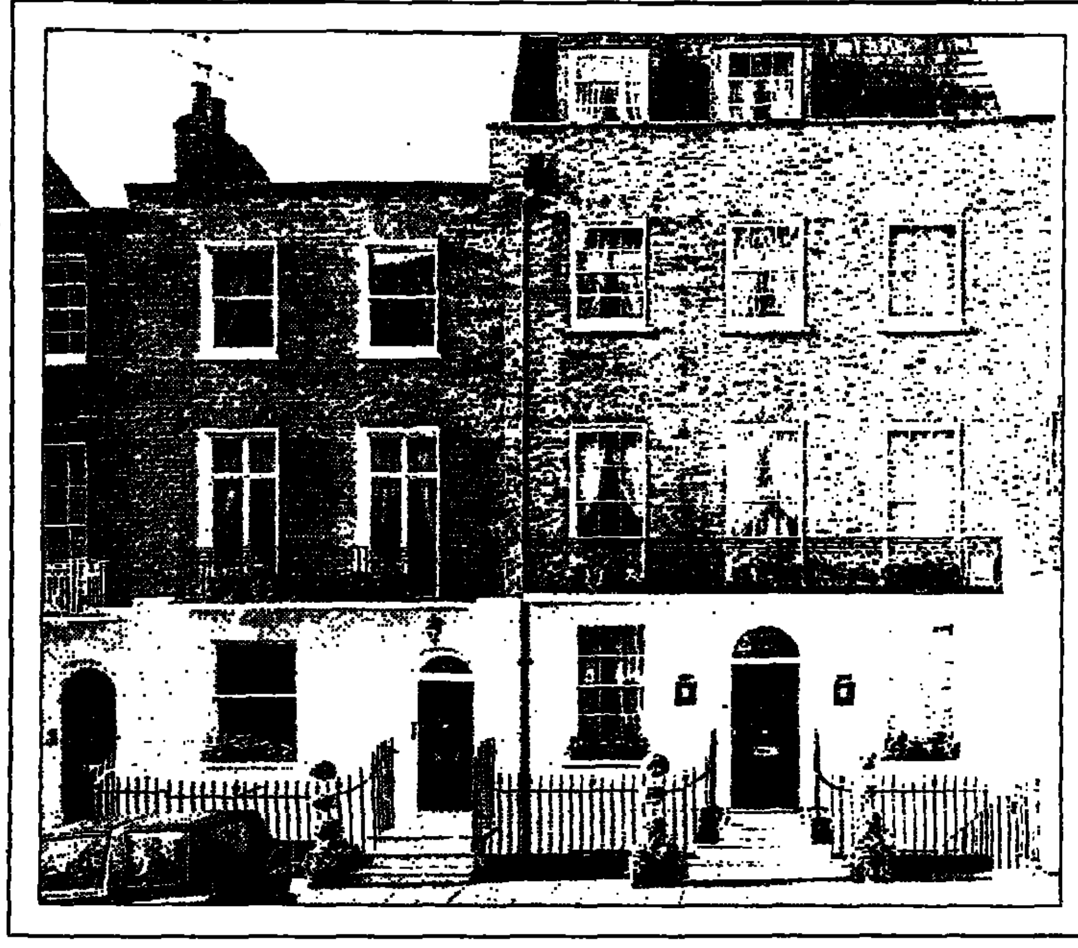
This knowledge is put to use in Hassall's latest schemes. Fairfield Manor at Spotborough, near Doncaster, is one of its top-of-the-range developments, in the "traditional upmarket" class, which should appeal to employees of companies relocating to that part of Yorkshire. The houses, including bungalows, start at £112,000. The top price is £175,000, for a five-bedroom detached house.

Last month Wimpey Homes introduced Keyplan 2000, a menu of buying options to give every buyer a complete package, including the design of the homes and the financial help that many buyers need. The options help those who cannot sell their existing home, or are worried about extended bridging loans or redundancy.

The difficulties of the market and the determination of builders to tackle them is shown by Wimpey's part-exchange scheme. It expects that nearly 30 per cent of its buyers in 1991 will use the scheme. Wimpey expects the number of first-time buyers in the new homes market will rise from 50 to 55 per cent this year.

Much of the company's work in this market will be in urban renewal areas. Wimpey says: "Inner-city residential space is fast approaching saturation point. Redesigning and rebuilding of decaying housing is playing a vital role in solving the housing problem."

Abbey Grange at Waltham Cross on the Hertfordshire-Essex border is one of Wimpey's latest urban developments. The scheme has transformed old council blocks into attractive flats.



Can you spot the new house?

One of London's more unusual new projects is in Trevor Street, Knightsbridge, where John D. Green, known for his restoration of period houses, has built a new property in the Regency style to extend an existing terrace. Trevor Lodge is now the largest house on the estate, double-fronted and on five floors. This is the first new house built on Trevor Street since the early 1800s, and is for sale on a direct lease from the Trevor estate for 75 years with a ground rent of £2,500 a year. Trevor Lodge and the adjoining original town house, which has been completely restored, contain 5,800 sq ft, and they are offered together at £3.7 million through W.A. Ellis and Russell Simpson. The house has six bedroom suites and a dining room seating 16 people which looks out on to the garden.

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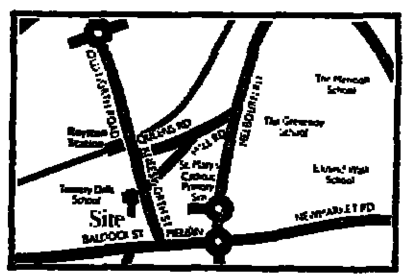

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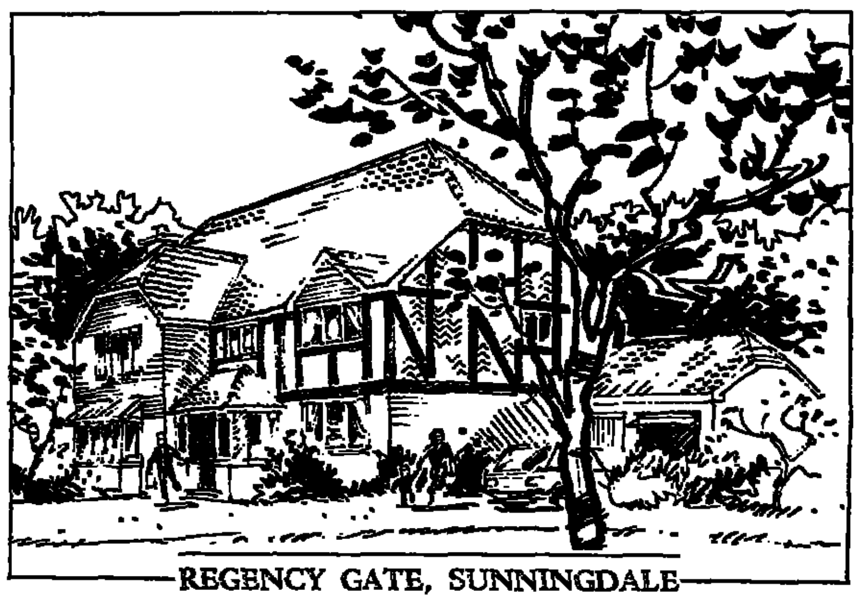

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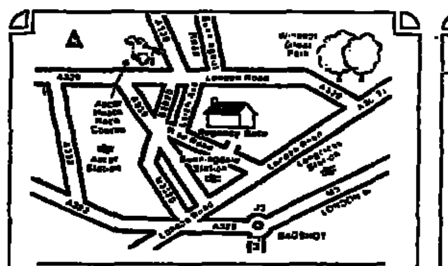

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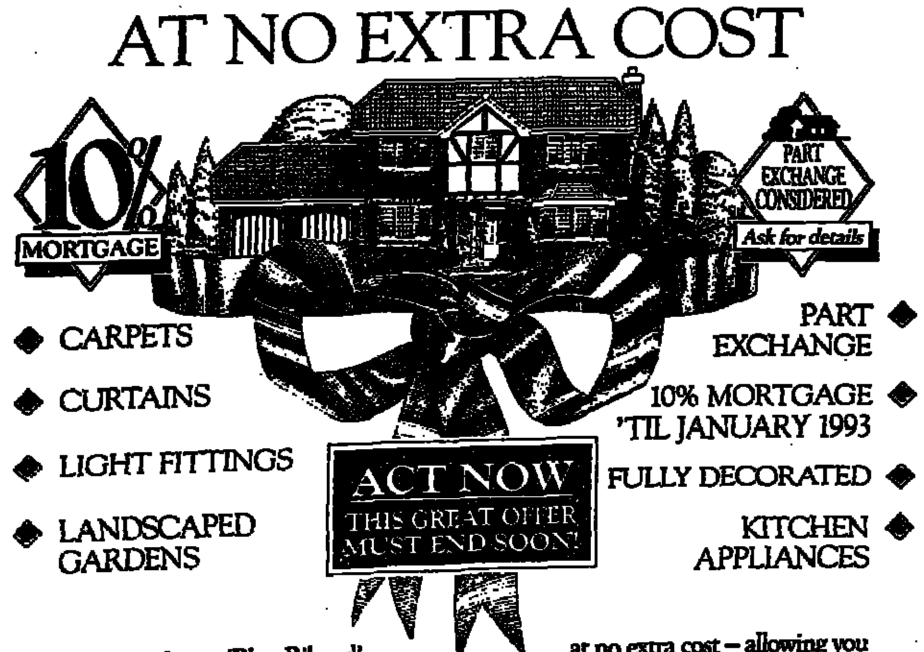

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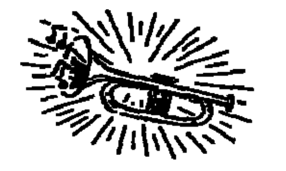

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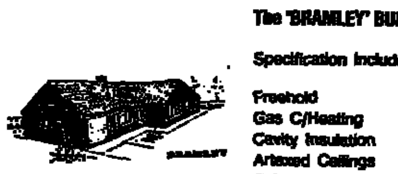

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Bankers take the blame

Unwise lending led to the property crash, say many banks. Christopher Warman assesses the new financial mood in the City

Part of the blame for the property crash is accepted by the bankers, Chesterton Financial reports after its survey of 53 banks. Over-ambitious developers are given as the main cause by 36 per cent of banks and interest rates by 30 per cent, but the less predictable response from about 20 per cent is that poor lending was the main contributor.

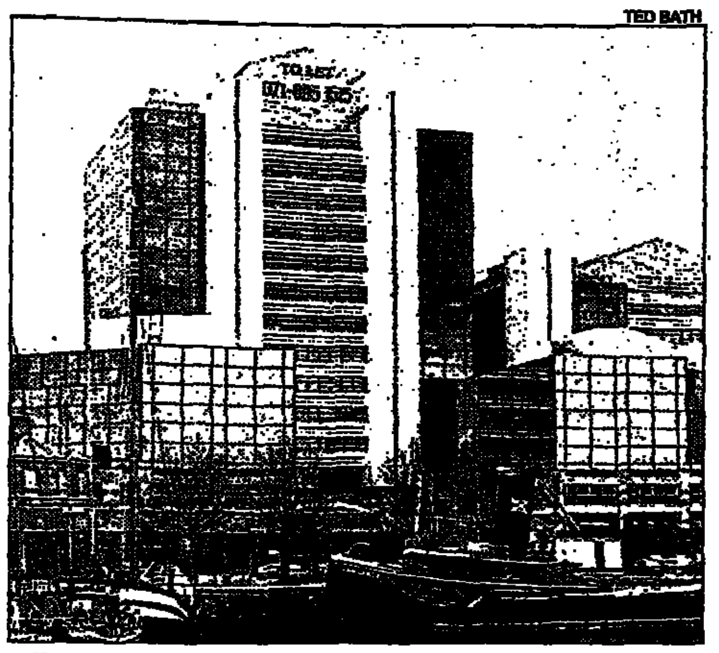
Chesterton Financial says this is "refreshing in today's market of passing the buck". The survey was carried out for Chesterton International's financial services arm during December and January, and included British, European, North American, Japanese and Middle Eastern banks.

The crash has led to a significant cut in lending on property development. Fewer than half the respondents lent against speculative developments in 1990 compared with 77 per cent in the previous year, and although 74 per cent say they would still provide development finance, only 24 per cent would consider a loan on a speculative scheme.

Comments from most banks on lending for speculative developments include "only for the brave" and, from an American bank, "foolhardy".

Investment finance, by contrast, is still favoured. The proportion of banks' property portfolios held in investment is 68 per cent, against 57 per cent a year ago, and all banks now have an upper loan limit on investment property as it becomes harder to syndicate large transactions.

TED BATH



Empty assets: signs of surplus in St Katharine's Dock, London

A recovery in property returns within a year is predicted by 64 per cent. Nearly half expect the residential sector to lead the recovery, 41 per cent back the retail sector, but only 7 per cent mention offices. The report says: "With over £39 billion of debt lent to property companies, the banks will not see this repaid quickly."

Chesterton Financial reports that the banks will finance transactions of only the highest quality. Although 60 per cent of the respondents are more cautious about property lending than six months ago, 30 per cent say their lending criteria are unchanged, and 69 per cent expect to increase their total loans by 10-20 per cent.

Mike Riley, Chesterton Financial's managing director, says: "Gone are the days of fancy financing. Banks are unlikely to support transactions that do not make sound economic sense."

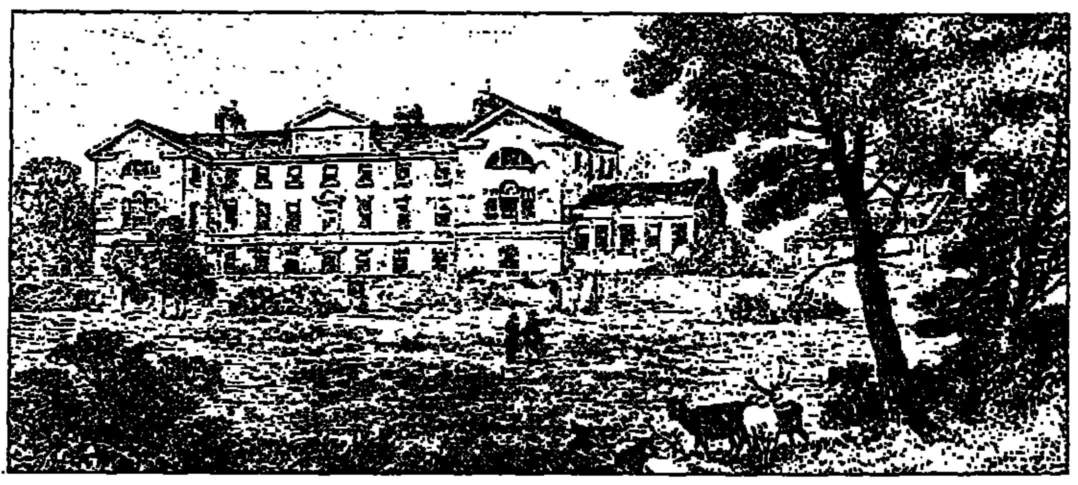
To avoid unnecessary liquidations and forced sales, banks are also under increased pressure to extend existing facilities, convert debt into equity or wait for values to rise before realising loans.

A report by the consultants Healey & Baker says the retail market will be the first commercial sector to recover and suggests there are good opportunities for buyers. The company welcomes the falls in interest rates and says: "We believe they are insufficient to cause a significant change in market sentiment. However, a more substantial fall will create an expected upsurge in occupational demand, and consumer spending will also pick up."

The office market still has a surplus and there is little rental growth throughout the country, but once the economy recovers the prime office market in particular will be spurred into activity.

A study commissioned by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors shows the total value of commercial property in 1989 was £250 billion, more than double that of outstanding government gilts, and about half the value of the UK equity market. The institution uses the figures to argue that the government should acknowledge the importance of property in the economy.

For St George's Hospital, read The Lanesborough, which is to be the name of the five-star hotel (artist's model, above) at Hyde Park Corner, transformed from the hospital that stood on the site for 250 years. The American Rosewood Hotel Group has chosen to name the hotel The Lanesborough in deference to the history of the site. Here the original building, Lanesborough House (engraving, below), was built in 1719, as the home of James Lane, the second and last Viscount Lanesborough. In the 1730s, the house became St George's Hospital and the building that is being restored was designed by William Wilkins and built in the 1830s. Work to restore the Wilkins building is being overseen by English Heritage and the Royal Fine Arts Commission. The 95-bedroom hotel, due to open towards the end of the year, will be the first international venture for Rosewood



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TENNIS

Graf's fall confirmed in new WTA standings

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time since August 17, 1987, Steffi Graf woke up yesterday no longer the world's No. 1 tennis player. After a record-breaking 186 weeks at the head of the women's game, Graf has lost that title to Monica Seles, who, at 17 years and three months, becomes the youngest No. 1 ever, beating Tracy Austin by a month.

Because of the peculiar workings of the Women's Tennis Association rankings, Graf had seen her deposition coming a week ago, so defeat by Gabriela Sabatini in the final of the Virginia Slims tournament in Boca Raton on Sunday was more a symptom than the cause of her decline. Even if she had won, Graf could not have stayed on top.

But the anticlimax of the changeover does not lessen its significance, nor does it detract from the remarkable rise of the precocious Yugoslav, who first made her mark in reaching the semi-final of the French Open two years ago.

Many of the players have regarded Seles, the French and Australian Open champion, as No. 1 for some months. Now the computer has deserted her as well. Graf, like her countryman, Boris Becker, has to see if she has the will to reconstruct her game.

"She has probably lost a little confidence," Sabatini said after her 6-4, 7-6 victory. "When you are No. 1 you play like you feel you are No. 1. I don't think Steffi felt as if she was No. 1."

Graf could claim the position back at the Lipton International, which begins on Friday in Key Biscayne. But her third defeat in a row by Sabatini, following those at the US Open and the Virginia Slims championship in New York last year, does not augur well for an instant recovery, particularly as Seles will be defending her Lipton title.

Becker is expected to return after pulling out of the semi-final at Brussels with a leg injury a month ago.

RANKINGS: 1, M Seles (Yug); 2, S Graf (Ger); 3, M Navratilova (US); 4, G Sabatini (Arg); 5, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp); 6, M J Fernandez (US); 7, J Novotna (Cz); 8, K Maleeva (Bul); 9, Z Garrison (US); 10, M Maleeva-Fragniere (Switz).

BADMINTON

Swedish success inspires Clark

By RICHARD EATON

GILL Clark's success in winning the Swedish Open with Nettie Nielsen, of Denmark, on Sunday has raised hopes that the home country might enjoy further doubles success in the Yonex All England championships starting at Wembley today — even though the world's most famous tournament has one of the strongest entries in depth of its 90-year history.

Clark reached last year's final with her England colleague, Gillian Gowers, and believes that with Nielsen, the European doubles champion, she can do at least as well. "Our Swedish performance shows we have the ability to match any pair in the world," Clark said.

The Anglo-Danish problem, however, is that by forming a new partnership they are necessarily unseeded and have been saddled in the first round with the seeded Dutch pair of Eline Coene and Erica van de Heuvel. If they survive this, all things may be possible.

Gowers also has an interesting new partnership, with Sara Sankey, a Commonwealth gold medal winner. The English pair have in their quarter the second-seeded Chinese, Guan Weizhen and Nong Qunhua, so Gowers may enjoy higher hopes for her Anglo-Danish partnership with Jan Paulsen, with whom she reached the World Cup final.

Singles progress for England may be more difficult. Helen Troke, the former European and Commonwealth champion, is seeded in the five to eight category, but has a first round with Hu Ning, of China, who beat her in the Far East recently. The seedings say Troke should have a quarter-final with the title holder and favourite from Indonesia, Susi Susanti.

England's other leading singles player, Darren Hall, may have better chances in the men's singles, even though he is unseeded. He could have a second round with the seeded Indonesian Fung Permadi, who has limited experience in European conditions. The titleholder, Zhao Jianhua, of China, is the favourite.

Footsteps in the park: Mota and Hutton prepare for the marathon in London

Big marathon allows no room for London

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN is the London Marathon not the London Marathon? When it is the IAAF/ADT World Marathon Cup 91 and there is no room for London in the title.

Peter Nichols, the international race director, announced the title at a press conference yesterday and then said it again to emphasise the event's proper name. "It's too long to get London in," Chris Brasher, the race director, said. "It does not go round the logo."

But it is a small price to pay for becoming the first mass-participation event to absorb an IAAF championship. More than that, the race on April 21 will be first IAAF event of such international standing to carry prize-money.

Brasher defends, rightly, the paying of tens of thousands of pounds to the world's leading marathon runners to take part, on the grounds that, because of the longer recovery needed by comparison with other events, the competitors have few pay days. But do they deserve preferential treatment on prize-money?

The difference between the World Marathon Cup and other IAAF championships is that the marathon runners need greater incentive to compete: one free marathon and it is a long time before the next payday. Without prize-money, the field would be diminished in status.

"I do not think we would wish the IAAF to pay prize-money for winning world championships indoors or out," Robert Stinson, the IAAF treasurer, said. "We have certainly not received any vibes indicating that people are pressing for prize-money in major championships."

It is not, of course, the IAAF which is paying but ADT, London's sponsors. And ADT, which is footing the bill for the appearance of the main attractions, Gelindo Bordin, Rosa Mota and Allister Hutton. ADT money, which has given the World Cup the leg-up it needed after three low-key tries.

And ADT money, which will decide who wins the cup: some countries will not have their strongest teams because the appearance fees offered could not buy them.

The termination of the Gulf War has, with subsequent entries from Israel, Syria and Iran, increased the number of teams to a World Marathon Cup record of 69. "As far as strength in depth goes for an international marathon, no big city has ever seen the like," Nichols said. "Outside the world championships and the Olympics, there has never been anything to compete."

Last year, Hutton, a Scot, broke away on his own after 14 miles and was never caught. "This year there will be a lot more people watching each other," he said. "There will be a big group for a long time."

Steve Brace, third in New York last year, does not wish to go. The Commonwealth Games taught him that he is not at his best in hot weather. What about the Barcelona Olympics next year? "The Olympics is something apart," Brace said. "That's every boyhood dream." No matter how many sponsors or authorities get involved, the Olympics will always be the plain-old Olympics.

RACING

Morley Street collects title again for Balding

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DISPLAYING an exhilarating surge of power, Morley Street raced clear of his toiling rivals at the penultimate flight in yesterday's Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham and, despite tiring on the hill in the dead going, held on bravely to beat Nomadic Way and Ruling.

Toby Balding, justifiably elated at having captured the hurdling crown for the second time in the past three seasons, was quick to pay tribute to his winner in the unsaddling enclosure. "That gave me more satisfaction than winning with Beech Road, as we thought that he would win. He's a really high-class horse. After all, he's beaten a St Leger winner on the Flat, won a Breeders' Cup Chase in America and now he's won a Champion Hurdle."

Jimmy Frost, a 32-year-old farmer from Buckfastleigh, who rode his first winner at the age of 13, was inclined to blame himself for having made his finishing run too soon. "He was going so well that I thought I'd better grasp the nettle and kick for home. I remember Tim Molony saying that you win your races at the second-last at this meeting and that the hill can take care of itself."

Indeed, adopting similar tactics, Molony won four consecutive Champion Hurdles in the early Fifties.

The moment of truth in the 1991 championship came at the fourth flight where the heavily-backed The Illiad blundered away his chance, thereby saving the bookmakers from a possible £10 million pay-out.

At this point Voyage Sans Retour was making the running ahead of Sondrio, Bradbury Star, Nomadic Way and Fidway, who came to grief at the next flight.

Frost had just moved Morley Street onto the heels of the leading group. "It was my only bad moment," said the jockey afterwards. "Nomadic Way swerved into Sondrio, who cannoned off the rails and clipped our heels. Morley Street made a bad mistake and nearly fell."

The 4-1 favourite eventually won by 1½ lengths with the 50-1 outsider Ruling finishing only a head behind Nomadic Way in third place. Then came Mole Board, Vestris Abu and Bradbury Star. Beech Road finished eighth and The Illiad nineteenth.

Black Humour's backers knew their fate early when the seven-year-old and Jamie Osborne fell at the second flight.

Balding deserves all the credit for having produced Morley Street at his peak on the day that mattered after his disappointing chasing career earlier in the season. "Morley Street deserves all the credit himself for having been tough enough to do it," said the trainer. "We'll go to Liverpool for the Sandeman Hurdle. The owner would like to run him on the Flat again, but I'd rather keep him for another crack at the Breeders' Cup Chase next October."

Michael Jackson, the seven-year-old's proud owner, has already had five bypass heart operations. "The run-in seemed to take so long, that I thought I might be due for another," said the owner, cheerfully, afterwards.

Nomadic Way delighted Barry Hills by running up to the form he showed when runner-up to Kribensis last year. "We might send him to Liverpool," said Robert Sangster. "After that, we'll stand him at Coolmore as a National Hunt stallion."

Similarly, Ruling thrilled Fulke Johnson Houghton by running such a mighty race on only his third run over hurdles. "We'll probably keep him for the Sagaro Stakes on the Flat," said the trainer. "But if he comes bouncing back, we might send him for one of the novices events at Aintree."

The meeting started on a sensational note when the four lengths victory of Destriero in the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle was reported to have netted Noel Furlong, the husband of the owner, Elizabeth, an estimated £1 million in bets and triggered off the £10 million double running on to The Illiad.

Unfortunately, it was a tragic race for the sponsors, as Sir Eric Parker lost his six-year-old Gaasid, who had to be destroyed after almost severing a leg on the bend after the fourth flight.

Pat McWilliams certainly rode an opportunist race on the 6-1 winner, setting sail for home at the second last. "That's my first winner from my first-ever ride in England," said the jockey afterwards. "I've had 12 winners over the jumps in Ireland this year, but previously I spent four years in England without riding a winner at all. I spent some time with Richard Hannon."

Balding: second title in three seasons

Granville Again, the 5-2 favourite, had a bad run, being denied a clear passage twice, but would still probably not have troubled the winner.

Destriero is now on offer at 8-1 for next spring's Champion Hurdle. "We won't go to Liverpool," said Andy Geraghty, the winning trainer. "We'll put him away, but we'll be back next year for certain."

Not since Bobsline beat the ill-fated Noddy's Ryde in 1984, has such a spectacular race been seen for the Arkle Challenge Trophy when Remittance Man put up a superb display of fencing to beat the strongly-fancied northern challenger Uncle Ernie by six lengths.

It was hard to know which to admire most, Remittance Man's brilliant fencing or Richard Dunwoody's inspired horsemanship as he sent the 85-40 favourite clear after jumping the second last.

"We thought Uncle Ernie might just have too much speed for him," said a delighted Nicky Henderson, "but once again it was his jumping and perhaps the slower going, which enabled him to be so effective over two miles.

"We'll send him to Liverpool, though I don't know for what race. Next year we might have a crack at the King George and see how he gets on over three miles. He's the most exciting prospect I've ever trained."

The punters certainly had a successful afternoon and King's Curate became the third winning favourite from the first four races to succeed when Mark Perrett drove Stan Mellor's seven-year-old past the post a neck in front of Peter Scudamore and Run For Free after a dramatic finish to the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle.

Afterwards, Stan Mellor rightly paid tribute to Perrett's strength and skilful horsemanship. "I thought Mark rode a superb race," said the former champion jockey. "He had to collect him and straighten him out twice on the hill. The ground wasn't soft enough for him which was why he was flat out the whole way. He won't run again this season, and we'll go chasing."

☐ The Lincoln favourite Selaah, trained by Michael Stoute, passed a stalls test at Lingfield Park yesterday.

Omerta provides Maguire with a fairytale success

By RICHARD EVANS

OMERTA filled one of the few remaining gaps in the remarkable training career of Martin Pipe by becoming the West Country handler's first festival success over fences.

The impressive 12-length victory in the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup Handicap Chase helped remove some of the disappointment of three second places on the first day of the meeting — and provided a fairytale story for Adrian Maguire.

Maguire, aged 19, left Ireland late on Monday night for his first ride in England, but not before informing his mother of the plan. When told that her son was riding at Cheltenham on a horse trained by the great Martin Pipe, Philomena Maguire was flabbergasted.

"I didn't know I was riding until the evening before and I could hardly believe it. Mum certainly didn't and cried "Oh by Jesus." Maguire junior said.

Ironically, Omerta provided Lorcan Wyer with a first riding success in England in 1986 when winning the National Hunt Chase at the festival and Maguire proved lightning can strike in the same place twice with a masterly ride.

Rousted into the lead entering the straight, Omerta had the race sewn up coming to the last, leaving Golden Minstrel and Master Bob to fill the minor places.

Omerta, formerly trained by Homer Scott, has been plagued with back injuries and had not raced for more than a year. There is no one better than Pipe at restoring equine crocks and four months in his care now offers the opportunity of a crack at the Grand National.

Jim McMorrow, joint-owner of Omerta, said: "He was very sore in his back when he came to England and opinion was that it would be a miracle if he got back on the racecourse. Martin, with his swimming pools and expertise, has done a marvellous job."

Star Season looked likely to provide Pipe with a quick chasing double in the Grand Annual Chase. The top-weight led over the last, but could do nothing to prevent Aldino from sprinting past him up the hill.

Despite being 10lb out of the handicap, Aldino justified Oliver Sherwood's bold move to bypass the Arkle and go for the handicap chase instead.

Although Aldino is not always the most courageous animal, the former Scottish champion hurdler has a touch of real class when in the mood.

"He loves jumping and when he is on an on-day he is a very good horse," Sherwood commented. If he had the heart of Desert Orchid he would have won three Champion Hurdles by now."

Jamie Osborne had been particularly keen to switch Aldino from hurdles to fences and the young jockey's bold policy was rewarded with a first festival success.

Crowd down

THE attendance on the opening afternoon of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham yesterday was 36,928, a drop of 1,655 on 1990. "Considering the recession and the effects of the Gulf War, I don't think we're doing too badly," Edward Gillespie, the general manager, said.

NETBALL

England seek an extension

ENGLAND travel to Lisburn, County Antrim, on Saturday aiming to extend a 37-match winning sequence against Northern Ireland (Louise Taylor writes). It will be England's last international before they depart for New Zealand and a triangular tournament, also involving Australia, on April 1, and is intended as a confidence booster.

A leg injury deprives England of Sandra Fairweather, from Surrey, and her place goes to Jane Hyrons, of Kent.

A strong Bedfordshire contingent in the squad, includes Kendra Lowe, the captain who has recovered from a long-term knee injury, Trudy Papasio, a goal-shooter, and Sharon Fogerty, promoted from the under-21 team and hoping for her first senior cap.

England Under-21 and Under-18 also play their Northern Irish counterparts on Saturday, when Bedfordshire's impact on the international scene is likely to be felt at under-21 level where Nicky Gabriel and Louise Sheridan hope to earn their first caps after impressive performances for the under-18 team.

Next Tuesday, Surrey aim to complete their PES English Counties League fixture list, unbeaten. Already the undisputed champions, Surrey intend to preserve their record against Birmingham at Crystal Palace in their final match of the season, which has been brought forward so as not to interrupt preparations for the New Zealand tour.

ENGLAND (v Northern Ireland): J Bryan (Birmingham), J Hyrons (Kent), M Farrell (West Yorkshire), S Fogerty (Bedfordshire), A Keyte (Surrey), K Lowe (Bedfordshire), T Papasio (Bedfordshire), J Parkes (Middlesex), L Sdao (Derbyshire), S Young (Kent). Umpire: B Hayter.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Plays to be replayed

JON Smith, chief executive officer of the London Monarchs, believes that a crowd of more than 30,000 for their first home game would be a bonus (Richard Wetherell writes). Nevertheless, 10,000 tickets have already been sold for the match against New York-New Jersey Knights on Easter Sunday.

To counter any prospect of leaving empty seats, Smith is confident that a large television screen will be installed at one end. This will show the replays that spectators in the United States are used to and help explain the game to the less knowledgeable spectators.

On their first visit to Wembley stadium, the players and coaches of the Monarchs were impressed, though the kickers would like the grass longer.

There is talk of using Ellery Hanley as a kick returner, which would ease him into the game relatively gently. But the decision on the future of Hanley will be made by Larry Kennan, the head coach, and nobody else, despite the obvious boost Hanley's presence would give this new venture.

Court of Appeal Law Report March 13 1991 Court of Appeal

Power to hear libel action against French newspaper

Shevill and Others v Presse Alliance SA

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Beldam

[Judgment March 12]

Where a libel had been published by the French publishers of a daily newspaper published mainly in France with a minute circulation in England, the plaintiff could, by limiting her complaint to publication in England, bring an action in the English court.

Once it was shown that there was an arguable case on which the plaintiff could rely to establish a publication carrying with it the presumption of damage, then jurisdiction under article 5(3) of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (the Brussels Convention) might be assumed by the English court.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Presse-Alliance SA, from the judgment of Mr Justice Alliott dated May 14, 1990 whereby he affirmed the decision of Master Creightmore dated April 10, 1990 refusing the defendants' application for an order dismissing or staying a libel action brought by the plaintiffs, Miss Fiona Shevill, Chequepoint International Ltd, Ixora Trading Inc and Chequepoint SARL.

Article 5 of the Convention, in Scheduled 1 to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, provides: "A person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued . . . (3) in matters relating to tort, delict, or quasi-delict in the courts for the place where the harmful event occurred . . .".

Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr Thomas Ivory for the defendants; Mr Richard Hartley, QC and Mr Harry Boggis-Rolfe for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that the Brussels Convention was imported into English law by section 2(1) of the 1982 Act.

The first plaintiff, was domiciled in England, was of English nationality and had her home in Yorkshire. She was employed at a *bureau de change* operated by the fourth plaintiff, a French enterprise which was owned by the third plaintiff of which the second plaintiff was the holding company.

The defendants published *France Soir* an evening newspaper with a daily circulation of 200,000 copies in France and 15,000 copies outside France of which about 250 copies were sold in England and possibly 10 in Yorkshire.

The article complained of was published on September 27, 1989. It referred to an alleged investigation by French police into the laundering of money obtained by the sale of drugs by, in particular, the Paris *bureau de change* in which the first plaintiff worked and to whom reference by name was made in the article. The second, third and fourth plaintiffs were French registered companies.

The statement of claim when first served claimed damages on behalf of all four plaintiffs for publications in France, England and Wales, and elsewhere.

The defendants had obtained the information on which the article was based from an agency source and now accepted that it was false. On November 23, 1989 they published a retraction and apology in respect of the first and fourth plaintiffs.

Subsequently, the plaintiffs amended the statement of claim to limit the action by deleting the references to circulation of *France Soir* outside England and Wales. The action related solely to publication in England and Wales.

The defendants appealed on the ground that the primary jurisdiction was to be found under article 2 of the Brussels Convention and that a departure from the right of the defendant to be sued in the courts of his domicile was only justified in the exceptional circumstances in article 5(3).

Mr Tugendhat submitted that as the substance of the plaintiffs' complaint was the publication of the article in a French evening newspaper mainly distributed in France the appropriate forum was the French courts.

He asserted that the judge was wrong in confining himself to the amended pleading which restricted the claim to comparatively minute distribution in England and Wales when considering whether the court should assume the exceptional jurisdiction under article 5(3).

He submitted that when determining jurisdiction the court should not so artificially confine itself but should look at the substance of the matter for the purpose of deciding "where the harmful event occurred".

Alternatively, he submitted that each of the plaintiffs had for differing reasons not suffered any damage so as to constitute a harmful event within the jurisdiction.

His Lordship had no difficulty in agreeing with Mr Tugendhat that the second plaintiffs could have suffered no damage by virtue of their interest as shareholders only in the third plaintiffs and therefore the claim of the second plaintiffs should be stayed.

Mr Tugendhat submitted that in the approach to article 5(3) regard must be had to the peculiar characteristics of English libel law and that there had to be established as a positive feature some actual harm in order to qualify England as a place where the harmful event occurred. It was not open to the plaintiffs to rely on the presumption of damage recognised by English law.

In his Lordship's view, the court had to look, as the judge did, at the proceedings as constituted before it at the time the application was heard. His Lordship could not accept the submission that the concept in English law that the cause of action arose at the place and at the time when the reader received and read the publication was a concept peculiar to English law.

It was not in conflict with the approach of the French courts as a criminal matter arising out of the production of a newspaper with a defamatory article in it which was clearly distinguishable. That that might give a cause of action in favour of either the state or parties against the newspaper and editors involved was not inconsistent with a different cause of action in tort, delict or quasi-delict arising in favour of a different victim in another jurisdiction.

The only idiosyncratic aspect arising from the law in England was the assumption of damage. His Lordship did not recognise that as a jurisdictional point.

Whether or not there might be detected a reader in England who both knew the plaintiff and read and understood the French evening newspaper might well arise in the course of the action and be relevant to the assessment of damages.

In his Lordship's judgment it would not be correct to restrict the exercise of jurisdiction to cases where the existence of such a person was established.

Once it was established that there was an arguable case on which each of the plaintiffs, except the second plaintiffs, could rely to establish a publication carrying with it the presumption of damage, then jurisdiction under article 5(3) might be assumed by the court.

Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: D J Freeman & Co; Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners.

Writ survives technical service error

Bondy and Another v Lloyds Bank plc and Others

Before Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith

[Judgment March 8]

The technical error of failing to accompany a writ with an acknowledgment of service was not sufficient to have the writ set aside when it was served at the last minute on experienced solicitors who were not prejudiced by the omission.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal brought by the plaintiffs, Shirley Irene Bondy and Esther Bondy, against the decision of Mr Justice Waller on January 15, 1990 to dismiss the plaintiffs' appeal from the order of Master Lubbock on November 1, 1989 to set aside service of a writ on the first defendants, Lloyds Bank plc.

Mr Graham Platford for the plaintiffs; Mr James Cross for the first defendants.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that the limitation period expired on July 28, 1988. At 5.55pm on July 27 the writ was served on the first defendants without compliance of Order 10, rule 6(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court requiring the writ to be accompanied with an acknowledgment of service.

In the present case it was obvious that no prejudice had been caused to the first defendants as service was on experienced solicitors who were not embarrassed in any way.

The fact the limitation period had expired might make it unjust to set the proceedings aside because what was a mere technicality could have consequences far beyond those which should follow because of a technical error.

To quote Lord Justice Holroyd Pearce in *Pontin v Wood* ([1961] 1 QB 594, 609) quoting Lord Justice Bowen: "It may be asserted without fear of contradiction that it is not possible in the year 1887 for an honest litigant . . . to be defeated by any mere technicality". If this appeal were not allowed, what Lord Justice Bowen had said in 1887 could not be asserted in 1991.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Michael Ambler & Co; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Blitzkreig primed to give O'Grady first two-mile title

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

DURING the last 16 years the experienced Irish trainer Edward O'Grady has won seven races at the Cheltenham festival, three of them on two occasions.

Today, I expect him to add to that tally by capturing a prize that has eluded him so far, the Queen Mother Champion Chase, with **Blitzkreig**, who is my nap.

This grey eight-year-old has already made one successful foray to this country this year, winning the valuable Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot in January.

On that occasion he beat Young Snugfit, an opponent again today, by a length. Discussing Blitzkreig's chance of beating Young Snugfit again this afternoon, on 7lb worse terms, O'Grady was emphatic that he has never had his chaser better.

Indeed, his bullish tone was in sharp contrast to David Nicholson's bulletin regarding Waterloo Boy, who ran the race of his life on the corresponding occasion last year when beaten half a length by Barnbrook Again. Nicholson makes no secret of the fact that he has had a race against time to get Waterloo Boy to the post today, following a setback which prevented him from having his preparatory race at Kempton last month.

So Waterloo Boy enters the fray not having raced since two days after Christmas. In the circumstances, a hale and hearty Blitzkreig appeals as a much better bet.

Strictly on the book, Young Snugfit has a clear chance of getting his revenge but I remain convinced that both today's stiffer course and the going will suit Blitzkreig the better. Last year, Young Snugfit was found out by the final stamina-sapping hill when he finished third in the Arkle Trophy after leading all the way to the final fence.

O'Grady: bullish about Blitzkreig's chance

Katabatic, the brave winner of the Grand Annual Chase last year and, more recently, another valuable prize at Wetherby, is clearly held on Ascot form by both Blitzkreig and Young Snugfit.

Any further rain that falls before the start of the Coral Golden Hurdle final will be sweet music to the connections of Westway and Royal Astronaut.

Well that Westway should go even with 11st 8lb on his back, I still doubt whether he will manage to give 15lb to the impressive Nottingham winner **Royal Astronaut**, who appears to have the beating of Mossgara and Holy Joe on that form.

In spite of that, local trainer Jim Wilson — who has won the race four times, three times as a rider — is still hopeful of a good run from Holy Joe.

No matter how Westway performs, Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore can still grab some of the headlines by hitting the bullseye with **Rolling Ball**, who is my selection to win the Sun Alliance Chase. Rolling Ball revels in muddy conditions and he cut a tremendous dash when winning his only chase so far, at Warwick, by 20 lengths while still hard held.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Irish will be bitterly disappointed if Minorettes Girl fails to win the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle. Following four victories in a row, this six-year-old mare is being hailed as the next Dawn Run in Paddy Mullins's Co Kilkenny yard.

Impressive that Minorettes Girl certainly was at Punchestown last time, I just prefer **Crystal Spirit**, who put up a fine performance indeed for a four-year-old to beat seasoned stayers of the calibre of Mutare, Yorkshire Holly and Rouyan over today's course and distance in January.

As far as the National Hunt Chase is concerned, I like none better than **Windy Ways**, who won nicely at Nottingham last time after showing the requisite promise at Wolverhampton the time before.

Finally, **Romany King** and Al Hashimi are preferred in that order for the Mildmay of Flete Challenge Cup now that the ground is likely to be too soft for the recent Newbury winner Mr Entertainer.

Seely's 11-1 nap

MICHAEL Seely found a good-priced nap, Omerta (11-1), at Cheltenham yesterday. Mandarin (Michael Phillips) selected Morley Street (4-1) and Remittance Man (85-40), which was top-rated by *The Times* Private Handicapper (Gerald Hubbard).

Piggott sells second yard at Newmarket

LESTER Piggott, who resumed his riding career last October, has sold off Calder Park, one of his two Newmarket yards.

Calder Park has been sold to the Yorkshire trainer Bill Stubbs by private treaty, without ever being advertised on the open market. The stable consists of over 40 boxes, trainer's and staff accommodation.

The former champion jockey bought the yard ten years ago when he was at the height of his riding career.

Piggott's main yard is at Eve Lodge in Hamilton Road, Newmarket, where his wife, Susan, trains.

Yesterday, Piggott's solicitor, Jeremy Richardson, said: "The property was just surplus to requirements. He has massive accommodation at the Eve Lodge stables and Calder Park just wasn't needed any more."

Elsworth star has 12st for Irish National

DESERT Orchid has been allotted top weight of 12 stone in the Jameson's Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday, April 1.

The grey, winner of the race last year, is rated 7lb ahead of his stable companion Barnbrook Again.

Only eight of the 66 entries get into the handicap with the Welsh National winner Cool Ground given 10st 5lb.

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

2.15 TRAFALGAR HOUSE SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE (Grade I: £26,567: 2m)

DESTRIERO br g Ile De Bourbon — Tipperary Tartan (Mrs E Furlong) 5-11-8 P McWilliams (6-1) 1.

Granville Again ch g Deep Run — High Board (E Scarth) 5-11-8 P Scudamore (2-1 fav) 2.

Gran Alba gr h El Gran Senor — Morning Games (D Thompson) 5-11-8 G McCourt (25-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 5 General Idea (5th), 6 Nordic Surprise (4th), 12 New Duds, 14 Gassid (su), 20 Bounden Duty, 25 Book Of Gold (6th), Shannon Glen, 33 Sabaki River, 66 Charlton Yeoman, Done Instantly, 100 Hurricane Hugo, Johnny Will, Tasman Oak, Trimlough, Viceroy Jester, 200 Storm Island, 300 Chester Terrace, 500 Luthior. 21 ran. 4l, ¾l, 5l, 2l, 1l. A Geraghty in Ireland. Tote: £10.00; £3.20, £1.60, £5.80. DF: £18.90 CSF: £16.08.

2.50 WATERFORD CASTLE ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY CHASE (Grade I: £42,827: 2m)

REMITTANCE MAN b g Prince Regent — Mittens (J Collins) 7-11-8 R Dunwoody (85-40 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating) 1.

Uncle Ernie b g Uncle Pokey — Ladyfold (A F Budge (Equine) Ltd) 6-11-8 M Dwyer (5-2) 2.

Redundant Pal ch g Redundant — Palesa (P O'Neill) 8-11-8 C O'Dwyer (16-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 11-2 Last 'O' The Bunch (f), 11 My Young Man (6th), Orbis (5th), 20 Buck Willow (bd), Firions Law, 25 Devil's Valley (4th), 40 Barkisland (pu), Duke De Vendome (pu), Monumental Lad, 50 General James, 200 Geostar. 14 ran. 8l, 8l, 5l, hd, 5l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.60, £3.70. DF: £3.90. CSF: £7.51.

3.30 SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (Grade I: £81,790: 2m)

MORLEY STREET ch g Deep Run — High Board (Michael Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) 7-12-0 J Frost (4-1 fav) 1.

Nomadic Way b h Assert — Kittyhawk (R Sangster) 6-12-0 R Dunwoody (9-1) 2.

Ruling b h Alleged — All Dance (G Groarke) 5-12-0 P Niven (50-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 11-2 The Illiad, 15-2 Fidway (ur), 8 Beech Road, 10 Athy Spirit, Sondrio, 16 Danny Harrold, Jinxy Jack, 20 Black Humour (f), Sybillin (pu), 33 Vayrua, Vestris Abu, Voyage Sans Retour (5th), 50 Deep Sensation, Rare Holiday, Riverhead, Wonder Man, 66 Bradbury Star (6th), Major Inquiry, Mole Board (4th), Royal Derbi, 250 Philosophos. 24 ran. 1½l, hd, 5l, 1½l, nk. G Balding at Weyhill. Tote: £4.90; £2.20, £3.40, £7.80. DF: £19.80. CSF: £38.07. Tricast: £1,495.97.

4.5 BONUSPRINT STAYERS HURDLE (Grade I: £45,610: 3m 1f)

KING'S CURATE b g King's Ride — Parnessa (C Ellis) 7-11-10 M Perrett (5-2 fav) 1.

Run For Free b g Deep Run — Credit Card (R Freestry) 7-11-10 P Scudamore (11-4) 2.

Pragada b g Pragmatic — Adare Lady (Mrs M McGlone) 8-11-10 D Murphy (12-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 9-2 Mutare (6th), 10 Do Be Brief, 14 Holding Scent, 16 Galmoy (5th), 25 Calabrese, Calapaez (pu), Cash Is King, Old Dundalk, 40 Judges Fancy (4th), 50 Olnistar (f), 150 Buckskin's Best, Grand Habit (pu). 15 ran. NR: Jimbalou. Nk, 10l, 1½l, 25l, 2½l. S Mellor at Swindon. Tote: £3.70; £1.70, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £6.00. CSF: £9.46.

4.40 FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs: £18,156: 3m)

OMERTA ch g Quayside — Cherry Princess (Mrs E McMorrow) 11-9-13 A Maguire (11-1; Michael Seely's nap) 1.

Golden Minstrel ch g Tudor Music — Ethel's Delight (W Gale) 12-9-13 (6lb ow) C Burnett-Wells (8-1) 2.

Master Bob b g Pitpan — Good Calx (I Willis) 11-10-11 G Johnson Houghton (7-2 fav) 3.

The Langholm Dyer b or br g Crash Course — Belle Artiste (The Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) 12-10-5 M Armytage (16-1) 4.

ALSO RAN: 11-2 On The Twist, 8 Mister Hartigan, 9 High Edge Grey (5th), 14 Ace Of Spies (f), 16 All Jeff, Glenside Jerry, Golden Czar (pu), 20 Birling Jack, Imadyna, Raise An Argument (6th), Die Broke (f), 40 Samsun, 66 Wharry Burn (pu), Moe Greene, 100 Mount Oliver (ur). 19 ran. 12l, 3l, 1l, 10l, 7l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £26.80; £4.30, £1.90, £1.50, £3.20. DF: £194.30. CSF: £93.92. Tricast: £349.94.

5.15 119th YEAR OF THE CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap: £24,289: 2m)

ALDINO ch g Artaius — Allotria (A Boyd-Rochfort) 8-10-0 J Osborne (15-2) 1.

Star's Delight gr g John De Coombe — Vanity Surprise (F Barr) 9-11-11 P Scudamore (9-1) 2.

Another Coral br g Green Shoon — Myralette (M Deeley) 8-10-8 R Dunwoody (6-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Ebony Star (f), 11-2 Nos Na Gaoithe, 8 Tresidder, Toranfield, 9 Sawdust Jack (5th), 10 New Halen (6th), 16 Ther-An-Bharr, 100 Tom Caxton (4th), 250 Silver Cannon. 12 ran. NR: Knockbrack. 3½l, 4l, 5l, 3l, nk. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £9.00; £2.40, £3.40, £2.20. DF: £54.30. CSF: £399.39.

Jackpot: not won (Pool of £39,747.35 carried forward to Cheltenham today). Placepot: £48.50.

Sedgefield

Going: good to soft

2.5 (2m hdle) 1, Ace Of Diamonds (B Storey, 25-1); 2, Hello Trouble (11-2); 3, Fiesole (5-4 fav); 4, Our Hero (50-1). 18 ran. 5l, 3l, sh hd. F Storey. Tote: £15.70; £2.70, £1.80, £1.30, £2.20. DF: £231.40. CSF: £160.44. Tricast: £283.74. No bid.

2.35 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Amicombe Run (W McFarland, 11-10 fav); 2, Purple Silk (5-2); 3, Holdforth (12-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 25l. R Lee. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £3.40. DF: £2.70. CSF: £4.20.

3.5 (2m 4f ch) 1, Wait You There (A Orkney, 8-13 fav); 2, York Imperial (9-2); 3, Merryacre (14-1). 6 ran. 30l, 1½l. H Alexander. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £4.20. CSF: £3.61.

3.40 (3m 2f 160yd ch) 1, Paddy Hayton (Mr R Shiels, 14-1); 2, Ardesee (7-1); 3, Speakers Corner. Church Warden (5-4 fav). 10 ran. Dist, 1½l. S Leadbeater. Tote: £16.00; £3.30, £1.80, £1.90. DF: £27.00. CSF: £100.60.

4.15 (2m ch) 1, Unco-Plained (J Callaghan, 2-1 fav); 2, Cavalier Crossett (3-1); 3, Mesnoon (5-1). 5 ran. 3l, sh hd. G Moore. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.70. DF: £6.70. CSF: £7.72.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Beau Nash (Mr N Wilson, 10-1); 2, Prince Bishop (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Stand At Ease (14-1). Le Joueur (5-2 jt-fav). 9 ran. NR: West The Wind, Strong Silver. ¾l, 15l. A Stringer. Tote: £8.10; £2.30, £1.30, £7.00. DF: £27.80. CSF: £33.58. Tricast: £324.54.

Placepot: £27.30.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (1m 2f) 1, Air Music (B Doyle, 30-100 fav); 2, Shout Out (10-1); 3, Dancing Breeze (16-1). 12 ran. 8l, 3½l. C Brittain. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.10, £2.50. DF: £5.40 CSF: £5.39.

2.40 (6f) 1, Erris Express (G Baxter, 7-4); 2, Sally's Son (6-4 Fav); 3, Beau Dada (7-1). 8 ran. 5l, ½l. F Durr. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £1.50, £2.50. DF: £2.30. CSF: £4.74.

3.10 (7f) 1, Predictable (Alex Greaves, 5-2); 2, Sarum (2-1 fav); 3, Orchard's Pet (9-1). 9 ran. Hd, 5l. Mrs A Knight. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £1.90, £2.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £7.62. Tricast: £33.44.

3.40 (6f) 1, Assignment (T Quinn, 6-4 fav); 2, Able Jet (11-4); 3, Go Executive (3-1). 4 ran. 2½l, nk. J Ffitch-Heyes. Tote: £3.40. DF: £2.90. CSF: £5.60.

4.10 (1m 4f) 1, Nocturnal Reverie (D Holland, 16-1); 2, Russian Red (7-4); 3, Chic Carole (10-1). Windsor Park 13-8 fav. 6 ran. 3l, 8l. T Naughton. Tote: £13.80; £4.10, £2.00. DF: £27.20. CSF: £48.38.

4.40 (1m 2f) 1, Bondaid (R Price, 20-1); 2, Crosby Place (13-2); 3, Kachina Maid (20-1). Dearest 11-4 fav. 14 ran. ¾l, 1l. J White. Tote: £38.70; £4.20, £1.70, £3.00. DF: £394.70. CSF: £142.75. Tricast: £2,427.35.

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CHELTENHAM

Selections

By Mandarin
2.15 Crystal Spirit.
2.50 BLITZKREIG (nap).
3.30 Royal Astronaut.
4.05 Rolling Ball.
4.40 Windy Ways.
5.15 Romany King.

By Thunderer
2.15 Crystal Spirit.
2.50 Blitzkreig.
3.30 Celtic Barle.
4.05 Rolling Ball.
4.40 Windy Ways.
5.15 ROMANY KING (nap).

By Michael Seely
2.15 Minorettes Girl. 2.50 Waterloo Boy. 5.15 AL HASHIMI (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: AL HASHIMI.

Going: good to soft SIS

2.15 SUN ALLIANCE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade I: £39,512: 2m 4f) (30 runners) BBC1

101	000-P	ALWAYS AWAY 21 (A Stadler) C Trietline 7-11-7	NON-RUNNER	—
102	5-PUP45	BALLYANTO 19 (J Cherry) Miss J Thorne 6-11-7	N Dawe	46
103	F42	BLAZING TOUCH 9 (B,BF) (T Painting) C Brooks 5-11-7	B de Haan	62
104	122022	BURGOYNE 11 (D,G) (P Savill) M H Easterby 5-11-7	L Wyer	77
105	52-1521	CACHE FLEUR 77 (F,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 5-11-7	J Lower	73
106	1-1215	CAPTAIN DIBBLE 11 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Vaughan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7	C Llewellyn	80
107	2-121	CHANGE THE ACT 57 (G,S) (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 6-11-7	J Osborne	75
108	21	EGYPT MILL PRINCE 9 (G) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-7	M Pitman	82
109	82121	ESTWING 11 (D,G) (The Sporting Chance Partnership) Mrs S Oliver 6-11-7	R Hyett	66
110	6-6	HIGHGATE MILD 8 (V Dolan) L Codd 6-11-7	S Turner	—
111	2440PF	JURANSTAN 15 (Arrow Valley Transport Ltd) C Trietline 6-11-7	S J O'Neill	60
112	2P/121F	MISTER GEBO 22 (D,F,G) (D Jones) J Edwards 6-11-7	D Tegg	82
113	124545	MOZE TIDY 23 (D,G) (M Greenway) J Gifford 6-11-7	M Dwyer	72
114	1-32541	ONE MORE KNIGHT 20 (F,G,S) (R West) Mrs I McKie 6-11-7	J Duggan	72
115	213404	ROCKTOR 12 (D,F,S) (Mrs G Watkinson-Yull) D Barons 6-11-7	N Hawke	58
116	4-21	SADDLER'S CHOICE 9 (G) (Mrs I Phillips) J Edwards 6-11-7	H Williamson	57
117	211316	SECRET FOUR 21 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Sturgis) R Akehurst 5-11-7	L Harvey	81
118	32520	SHADOW RUN 12 (G Downey) R Dickin 6-11-7	G McCourt	60
119	5/13412	SOUTH HARVEST 21 (G,S) (P Duffy) R Brazington 8-11-7	R Baggan	79
120	6R1110	STRONG BEAU 18 (C,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 6-11-7	R Dunwoody	81
121	04-215	SUPER SENSE 21 (G) (Miss N Hughes) J Gifford 6-11-7	D Murphy	66
122	11134	TYRONE BRIDGE 21 (B,D,BF,S) (Paul Green) M Pipe 5-11-7	P Scudamore	89
123	12	UPTON PARK 43 (D,BF,G) (P Newton) J Fanshawe 6-11-7	S Smith Eccles	73
124	4/22-6	YEOMAN METRO 18 (Mrs H Alwen) J Gifford 7-11-7	E McKinley	80
125	112	YOUR WELL 11 (G,S) (D Newell) P Hobbs 5-11-7	B Clifford	74
126	13-1111	MINORETTES GIRL 16 (D,S) (T McKeever) P Mullins (Ire) 6-11-2	A Mullins	98
127	61P	SOUPCON 16 (Mrs J Clark) Miss B Sanders 5-11-2	Dale McKeown	54
128	4021	BLACK SAPPHIRE 60 (S) (P Betts (Holdings) Ltd) M Tompkins 4-10-12	P Niven	60
129	1211	CRYSTAL SPIRIT 48 (CD,F,G,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-10-12	J Frost	● 99
130	11U213	MASTER DANCER 46 (C,G,S) (T Charlesworth) Miss L Siddall 4-10-12	A J Quinn	71

BETTING: 11-4 Minorettes Girl, 7-2 Crystal Spirit, 10-1 Tyrone Bridge, 12-1 Change The Act, Upton Park, 14-1 Egypt Mill Prince, South Harvest, 16-1 One More Knight, Captain Dibble, 20-1 Saddlers Choice,

1990: REGAL AMBITION 6-11-7 P Scudamore (3-1 fav) M Pipe 22 ran

FORM FOCUS BURGOYNE 15l 2nd to Smith's Cracker at Newbury (3m 120yd, good to soft) with CAPTAIN DIBBLE (same terms) disappointing 18l 5th. CACHE FLEUR beat Its Nearly Time 1½l at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, soft) with SOUTH HARVEST (15lb worse off) 27l 4th.

CAPTAIN DIBBLE beat UPTON PARK (4lb better off) 20l at Leicester (2m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. CHANGE THE ACT beat Viceroy Jester ½l at Sandown (2m, soft) with TYRONE BRIDGE (same terms) neck 3rd. EGYPT MILL PRINCE beat Pardon Me Sir 1l at Windsor (2m 30yd, good). May improve.

ONE MORE KNIGHT, useful chaser, beat Bussaels 20l at Folkestone (2m 6f, good to soft) latest. SECRET FOUR beat Par For The Course 8l at Ascot (2m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. SOUTH HARVEST much improved when 2½l 2nd to Better Times Ahead at Warwick (2m 5f, good to soft) with TYRONE BRIDGE (6lb better off) 14½l 4th, SUPER SENSE (3lb better off) 2l 5th, SECRET FOUR (3lb better off) neck 6th and ROCKTOR tailed off 9th.

TYRONE BRIDGE beat BURGOYNE (same terms) 12l in grade I Challow Hurdle at Newbury (2m 4f 120yd, good to soft) in December. UPTON PARK beat Granville Again 5l on Chepstow (2m 4f, good) debut with SECRET FOUR (4lb better off) 4l 3rd.

MINORETTES GIRL, unbeaten in 4 outings over hurdles, beat More Of It a distance at Punchestown (2m 2f 110yd, heavy) latest. CRYSTAL SPIRIT impressive 3½l winner from Mutare here (2m 4f, good) latest; previously beat Chasseuneuil 25l at Ascot (2m 4f, soft).

Selection: CRYSTAL SPIRIT

2.50 QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade I: £62,070: 2m) (7 runners) BBC1

201	2U1212	BLITZKREIG 28 (D,BF,G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady (Ire) 8-12-0	T Carmody	92
202	2P15/2-P	GOLDEN FREEZE 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 9-12-0	M Pitman	86
203	3-41231	KATABATIC 39 (CD,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) Andrew Turnell 8-12-0	S McNeill	91
204	F/43321	NOS NA GAOITHE 39 (B,D,G,S) (P Green) M H Easterby 8-12-0	L Wyer	75
205	54-4152	THE A TRAIN 18 (D,G,S) (M Oberstein) Mrs J Pitman 9-12-0	S Smith Eccles	72
206	24-U231	WATERLOO BOY 76 (CD,F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 8-12-0	R Dunwoody	● 99
207	22-2122	YOUNG SNUGFIT 60 (D,F,G,S) (J Poynton) O Sherwood 7-12-0	J Osborne	98

BETTING: 6-4 Waterloo Boy, 9-4 Blitzkreig, 7-2 Young Snugfit, 7-1 Katabatic, 25-1 Golden Freeze, 33-1 Nos Na Gaoithe, 50-1 The A Train.

1990: BARNBROOK AGAIN 9-12-0 H Davies (11-10 fav) D Elsworth 9 ran

FORM FOCUS BLITZKREIG 2l 2nd to Us And Joe at Thurles (2m 4f, yielding) latest; previously beat YOUNG SNUGFIT (7lb better off) 1l with KATABATIC (same terms) 2l 3rd.

GOLDEN FREEZE sustained minor leg injury when pulled up behind Sabin Du Loir in grade II Cavalier Chase (2m 4f, soft) at Worcester; previously neck 2nd to Joint Sovereignty in the Mackeson here (2m 4f, good) in November 1989.

KATABATIC beat Ida's Delight ½l (pair clear) at Wetherby (2m 4f 100yd, good) latest; beat WATERLOO BOY (24lb better off) 1½l at Haydock (2m, soft) in November with NOS NA GAOITHE (4lb worse off) 15l 4th. THE A TRAIN creditable ¾l 2nd to Master Rajh at Kempton (2m, good) latest. WATERLOO BOY fine ½l 2nd to Barnbrook Again in this race last term (good to firm); beat YOUNG SNUGFIT (same terms) 15l at Wetherby (2m 50yd, soft) latest.

YOUNG SNUGFIT beat Sabin Du Loir 2l in grade II Victor Chandler Handicap at Sandown (2m 18yd, good to firm) in December with WATERLOO BOY (5lb better off) 10l 3rd.

Selection: WATERLOO BOY (nap)

3.30 CORAL GOLDEN HURDLE FINAL (Handicap: £23,491: 3m 1f) (29 runners) BBC1

301	3-10165	RANDOLPH PLACE 21 (G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill) G Richards 10-11-10	N Doughty	85
302	504-11F	WESTWAY 61 (G,S) (Miss J Hughes) M Pipe 6-11-8	M Foster (7)	90
303	211112	CATCH THE CROSS 80 (V,C,BF,F,G,S) (S Price) M Pipe 5-11-3	P Scudamore	88
304	133304	DANNY CONNORS 19 (G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 7-10-12	M Dwyer	87
305	3130-11	FATHER TIME 39 (G,S) (Mrs A Hollest) M Tompkins 7-10-12	S Smith Eccles	90
306	1515P0	SIR CRUSTY 12 (CD,F,G,S) (M Ash) R Holder 9-10-10	N Mann	92
307	2/6-2344	MORE FOOL YOU 12 (BF,S) (D Goodenough) P Hobbs 9-10-9	S Earle	84
308	U112U3	EASTERN OASIS 38 (F,G,S) (J Andrews) J Andrews 8-10-8	R Fahey	88
309	12/4-031	ROYAL ASTRONAUT 42 (S) (Mrs R Lambert) R Akehurst 7-10-7	L Harvey	98
310	11-FP02	MOSSGARA 42 (G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-7	M Bowlby	83
311	600580	I'M CONFIDENT 38 (F,G,S) (M McDonagh) M McDonagh (Ire) 7-10-6	C Swan	81
312	14-00F2	CELTIC BARLE 12 (G,S) (Mrs I Hodge) H Hodge 7-10-6	M Lynch	● 99
313	113214	BANKER'S GOSSIP 11 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Suson) D Nicholson 7-10-5	R Dunwoody	88
314	509-000	ROGERS PRINCESS 12 (CD,F,G,S) (R Smith) M Tate 9-10-3	S Keightley	89
315	3P6-110	STUPID CUPID 60 (F,G) (D Ellingham) J Gifford 7-10-0	D Murphy	82
316	P53202	FLYING DANCER 39 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-0	J O'Gorman (3)	89
317	6-05435	HOLY JOE 15 (S) (T Pilkington) A J Wilson 9-10-0	J Osborne	82
318	F-5P101	YOUNG BAVARD 12 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs D Bull) D Murray-Smith 10-10-0 (4ex)	P Verling (3)	93
319	14-2300	BOSCEAN CHIEFTAIN 42 (D,F) (Miss C Olds) J Bennett 7-10-0	J Frost	84
320	22F3-03	KINGS RANK 15 (B,F,G,S) (D Few) M Pipe 6-10-0	D Richmond (7)	82
321	011260	MUSHTAAG 11 (S) (R Hitchcock) F Lennon (Ire) 7-10-0	C O'Dwyer	80
322	3-4F201	CIMA 49 (S) (J Old) J Old 13-10-0	P Davies (7)	86
323	F/3-0355	POKEREE 50 (V,F,G) (A Brewer (Pimbg & Htg) Ltd) R Dickin 8-10-0	D Meredith (7)	72
324	993RSR	TORKABAR 8 (B,S) (N Coulson-Stevens) G Ham 8-10-0	B Powell	76
325	1/000BP	GREAT SALING 13 (B,G,S) (B Woodward) F Jordan 6-10-0	J Lodder (3)	73
326	5-22341	TARKOVSKY 14 (S) (J Watkins) R Lee 6-10-0	W McFarland	84
327	35-30U0	FLY FOR US 14 (S) (M Duffy) M O'Neill 5-10-0	L Wyer	89
328	513103	CNOC AN OIR 16 (G) (M Jones) C Broad 7-10-0	Mr P Fenton	83
329	434U50	LOOK LIVELY 19 (F,G) (The 39 Partnership) J Gifford 6-10-0	E McKinley	74

Long handicap: Stupid Cupid 9-12, Flying Dancer 9-12, Holy Joe 9-12, Young Bavard 9-12, Boscean Chieftain 9-11, Kings Rank 9-10, Mushtaag 9-10, Cima 9-8, Pokeree 9-8, Torkabar 9-7, Great Saling 9-6, Tarkovsky, 8-12, Fly For Us 8-12, Cnoc An Oir 8-10, Look Lively 8-7.

BETTING: 8-1 Royal Astronaut, 9-1 Holy Joe, 10-1 Danny Connors, 14-1 Celtic Barle, Bankers Gossip, Eastern Oasis, Mossgara, 16-1 Father Time, Westway, Catch The Cross, Boscean Chieftain,

1990: HENRY MANN 7-11-9 A Mulholland (20-1) S Christian 27 ran

Festival course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G Balding	5	26	19.2	Mr P Hacking	2	4	50.0
N Henderson	5	32	15.6	R Guest	2	7	28.6
D Nicholson	4	34	11.8	B de Haan	2	9	22.2
J Gifford	6	56	10.7	M Bowlby	2	15	13.3
O Sherwood	3	29	10.3	R Dunwoody	6	51	11.8
J Edwards	4	39	10.3	T Carmody	2	20	10.0

(Not including yesterday's results)

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

FORM FOCUS RANDOLPH PLACE 13½l 5th to Run For Free at Warwick (2m 5f, good to soft) with ROGERS PRINCESS tailed off 7th; beat Gay Ruffian 2½l at Haydock (2m 4f, soft) in January with HOLY JOE well beaten 5th.

WESTWAY beat Shaston 7l at Wincanton (2m 6f, good) with MOSSGARA (7th), TORKABAR (8th) and ROYAL ASTRONAUT (11th) well behind, previously beat Vindian 20l at Haydock (2m 6f, soft) with FLY FOR US (12th), POKEREE (13th), MOSSGARA (pulled up) and YOUNG BAVARD (pulled up) behind. CATCH THE CROSS beat Oubiler L'Ennui 1l at Kempton (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start.

FATHER TIME beat FLYING DANCER (5lb better off) 6l at Wetherby (3m, good) with EASTERN OASIS (7lb better off) 1l 3rd, previously beat CATCH THE CROSS (13lb better off) 8l at Warwick (2m 5f, soft) with TARKOVSKY (7lb better off) 3l 4th, CNOC AN OIR (8th), CIMA (13th), STUPID CUPID (16th), ROGERS PRINCESS (18th) and GREAT SALING (20th).

ROYAL ASTRONAUT beat MOSSGARA (4lb better) 8l at Nottingham (2m 6f, good to soft) with HOLY JOE (7lb better) 2½l 3rd, MORE FOOL YOU (7lb better) ¾l 4th, RANDOLPH PLACE (8lb better) ¾l 6th, DANNY CONNORS (7th), CELTIC BARLE (8th), BOSCEAN CHIEFTAIN (9th) and KINGS RANK (20th).

BANKER'S GOSSIP 12l 2nd to King's Curate at Ascot (3m, soft) with MORE FOOL YOU (3lb worse) 1l 3rd, BOSCEAN CHIEFTAIN (7th) and WESTWAY (same terms) 2nd when fell last. YOUNG BAVARD beat CELTIC BARLE (5lb better off) head at Newbury (3m 120yd, good to soft) with MORE FOOL YOU (4th), SIR CRUSTY (9th) and ROGERS PRINCESS (10th).

Selection: WESTWAY

4.5 SUN ALLIANCE CHASE (Grade I: £50,032: 3m) (22 runners) BBC2

401	0-08120	BOLSHOI BOY 54 (BF,F) (P Fasteners Ltd) Mrs S Oliver 7-11-4	R Hyett	—
402	40/1-213	BONSAI BUD 19 (G) (P De Wilde) D Murray Smith 8-11-4	P Verling (3)	74
403	11224F	CLOUGHTANEY 14 (G,S) (C Meyo) P Mullins (Ire) 10-11-4	C O'Dwyer	85
404	3054/1	COMPLETE OPTIMIST 18 (S) (B Lewis) R Lee 7-11-4	S Smith Eccles	57
405	P-U51P3	CORUSCATE 60 (D,F,G) (H Joel) J Gifford 9-11-4	D Murphy	67
406	P/543-01	EBHA NESS 11 (G,S) (P Bancroft) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4	M Bowlby	73
407	1-02311	FIFTH AMENDMENT 18 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4	M Pitman	84
408	31B431	FIRIONS LAW 25 (S) (Mrs M Quinn) V Bowens (Ire) 8-11-4	K O'Brien	86
409	23-2F11	FORMULA ONE 18 (B,D,S) (D Dewell) J Edwards 9-11-4	H Williamson	91
410	3-0P212	GENERAL HIGHWAY 21 (G,S) (Mrs P Glenn) J Chugg 8-11-4	M Lynch	79
411	5-4F033	GIVUS A BUCK 11 (B,S) (K Costello) D Elsworth 8-11-4	P Holley	63
412	121133	KILLBANON 21 (D,F,G,S) (W Ebury) C Trietline 9-11-4	S Earle	81
413	153102	LAURA'S BEAU 11 (G,S) (S Allen) J Berry 7-11-4	T Carmody	86
414	4F211F	MAYORAN 60 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (Lord Carnarvon) D Barons 7-11-4	J Frost	75
415	121133	RAWHIDE 38 (B,D,BF,G,S) (Mrs H McCalmont) M Morris (Ire) 7-11-4	C Swan	87
416	14/101	ROLLING BALL 21 (S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 8-11-4	P Scudamore	92
417	3/11P14	SOUTHERLY BUSTER 19 (D,F,G) (M Dorey) O Sherwood 8-11-4	J Osborne	82
418	111	SPARKLING FLAME 42 (D,G) (C Hargreaves Ltd) N Henderson 7-11-4	R Dunwoody	● 99
419	5P4-511	TERRY JO 20 (G) (Miss J Moorey) R Hoad 7-11-4	M Hoad	76
420	2-12222	WHATS THE CRACK 19 (D,G) (J Wright) Miss H Knight 8-11-4	S Dowling	79
421	223FF1	WINABUCK 51 (D,G,S) (W Bullivant) R Dickin 8-11-4	G McCourt	84
422	035P11	ORBIS 10 (G,S) (E Kearns) J Bolger (Ire) 5-10-8	—	84

BETTING: 3-1 Rolling Ball, 5-1 Sparkling Flame, 6-1 Formula One, 10-1 Laura Beau, 12-1 Fifth Amendment, 14-1 Cloughtaney, 16-1 Rawhide, Orbis, Firions Law, 20-1 Mayoran, 25-1 Whats The Crack, Southerly Buster, 33-1 others.

1990: GARRISON SAVANNAH 7-11-4 B de Haan (12-1) Mrs J Pitman 9 ran

FORM FOCUS CORUSCATE 15l 3rd to Local Whisper at Ascot (3m, good to soft) with TERRY JO (4lb worse off) 14l 5th, GIVUS A BUCK (4lb worse off) 13l 7th and MAYORAN (3lb better off) beaten when fell 17th.

FIFTH AMENDMENT led from 2 out to beat Mandraki Shuffle 10l at Leicester (3m, good to soft) latest start. FIRIONS LAW beat Kindly King 6l at Leopardstown (2m 4f, soft). FORMULA ONE beat Roy's Dream 3l at Kelso (3m, soft), previously made all to beat Fire At Will 5l at Chepstow (3m, soft).

KILLBANON all out to beat WHATS THE CRACK (same terms) 2l at Worcester (3m, good) with CORUSCATE (same terms) 34½l 5th and WINABUCK (same terms) 3rd and beaten when fell last. MAYORAN comfortably beat Duntree 7l here (3m 1f, good to soft). RAWHIDE 2½l 3rd to On The Other Hand at Leopardstown (3m, yielding) with CLOUGHTANEY (9lb better off) 1½l 4th.

ROLLING BALL made all to beat GENERAL HIGHWAY (7lb better off) 20l at Warwick (3m 1f, good to soft) with KILLBANON (10lb better off) 6l 3rd. SOUTHERLY BUSTER beat Calapaez 10l at Kempton (2m 4f, good). SPARKLING FLAME beat Ardbrin 15l Kempton chase (3m, good) penultimate start.

TERRY JO comfortably beat Sam Shorrock at Folkestone (3m 2f, good). ORBIS never-dangerous 5th behind Remittance Man in yesterday's Arkle Chase here (2m, good to soft) with FIRIONS LAW tailed off.

Selection: SPARKLING FLAME

4.40 121st YEAR OF THE NATIONAL HUNT CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (Amateurs: £15,530: 4m) (18 runners)

501	3132P0	CHANCERY BUCK 14 (F,G) (G Jones) G Balding 8-12-7	R Alner	83
502	511U33	FIGHTING JESSICA 16 (G) (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 8-12-7	D Costello	75
503	111312	MANDRAKI SHUFFLE 16 (B,F,G) (Mrs J Dibben) O Sherwood 9-12-7	J Durkan	90
504	422321	BIT OF A CLOWN 7 (S) (J Sumner) Mrs I McKie 8-12-4	I McKie	80
505	552401	LIAMS PRIDE 16 (S) (A Potts) S Mellor 8-12-4	D Gray	75
506	1F5622	SAM SHORROCK 20 (G) (K Ogden) G Thorner 9-12-4	T Maley	87
507	3R3426	SENATOR OF ROME 19 (C,F) (H McCall) G Balding 8-12-4	S Mellina	91
508	31	WINDY WAYS 15 (G) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 8-12-4	G Johnson Houghton	84
509	0-03225	GOLD CAP 19 (BF) (G Meadows) C Brooks 8-12-0	M Armytage	● 99
510	0403-F2	HEART OF KINGS 7 (R Fairbarns) J Gifford 7-12-0	P Hacking	77
511	05U0P-6	JOLIE GAZELLE 18 (B) (A Clarke) P Davis 9-12-0	L Brown	—
512	F6P-242	JUDGMENT DAY 7 (R Tooth) P Hobbs 9-12-0	P Healy	82
513	06520	SANDBROOK 15 (D Shorey) Mrs H Parrott 7-12-0	S R Andrews	51
514	32-2222	SMOOTH ESCORT 14 (A Budge (Equine) Ltd) Mrs D Haine 7-12-0	A J Martin	85
515	003-605	TIME MODULE 4 (Mrs D Scott) D Scott 7-12-0	J Scott	51
516	236556	TRYUMPHANT LAD 14 (M Deasley) T Jones 7-12-0	S Deasley	92
517	3-R3	WOT PET 19 (T Gibson) T Gibson 8-12-0	S Heslop	92
518	24F0PP	LYNKINGEM 11 (S) (R White) M Chapman 5-11-9	A Sansome	—

BETTING: 4-1 Gold Cap, 5-1 Windy Ways, 7-1 Mandraki Shuffle, Senator Of Rome, 10-1 Smooth Escort, Wot Pet, 14-1 Liams Pride, 16-1 Sam Shorrock, Judgment Day, 20-1 Chancery Buck, Hearts Of Kings, 25-1 others.

1990: TOPSHAM BAY 7-12-0 P Hacking (40-1) D Barons 25 ran

FORM FOCUS FIGHTING JESSICA just held on to beat SMOOTH ESCORT (3lb better off) ¾l at Nottingham (3m, good). MANDRAKI SHUFFLE got up closing stages to beat Granny's Bay 4l at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, good) with WINDY WAYS (5lb worse off) ¾l 3rd.

BIT OF A CLOWN comfortably beat Carousel Crossett 1½l at Catterick (3m 1f 80yd, good to soft). LIAMS PRIDE ridden out to beat Woodland Retreat 5l at Leicester (2m, good to soft). WINDY WAYS beat Into The Red 2½l at Nottingham (2m 6f, good) with SANDBROOK (4lb better off) tailed off 6th.

HEART OF KINGS clear when fell last, remounted to finish 2nd to Tudor Sun at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft). JUDGMENT DAY caught run-in when 1½l 2nd to Dunraven Royal at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft).

Selection: MANDRAKI SHUFFLE

5.15 MILDMAY OF FLETE CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£26,493: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

601	02-4511	GOLD OPTIONS 53 (B,D,F,G,S) (J McCaghy) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-11-10	M Dwyer	87
602	032622	IDA'S DELIGHT 39 (D,F,G,S) (J Charlton) J Charlton 12-11-9	B Storey	87
603	3P3352	CUDDY DALE 18 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 8-11-8	D Murphy	85
604	123283	AUNTIE DOT 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Wilson) J Webber 10-11-8	M Lynch	83
605	5-18341	FU'S LADY 47 (D,F,G,S) (S Dunster) M Pipe 9-11-5	P Scudamore	83
606	541136	NEW HALEN 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs S Shiter) A James 10-11-4	E Tierney (7)	84
607	122212	AL HASHIMI 14 (CD,F,G) (J Hobbs) D Nicholson 7-11-2	R Dunwoody	● 99
608	PP2-355	FOYLE FISHERMAN 60 (D,G,S) (J Hutchinson) J Gifford 12-11-0	E Murphy	85
609	111140	SKIPPING TIM 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss H Bisgrove) M Pipe 12-11-0	J Lower	83
610	11-21F1	MR ENTERTAINER 11 (D,G,S) (M Boddington) N Gaselee 8-10-13 (6ex)	B Powell	86
611	121-513	LACIDAR 11 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Seagrave) J Johnson 11-10-11	T Reed	84
612	331113	ROMANY KING 21 (D,BF,G,S) (L Garrett) G Balding 7-10-5	R Guest	85
613	424453	WINK GULLIVER 12 (F,S) (Mrs T Moriarty) D Elsworth 7-10-2	C Swan	81
614	16-3130	FIT FOR FIRING 82 (D,BF,G,S) (F Chapman) D Elsworth 7-10-0	P Holley	76
615	122236	ROYAL CRACKER 16 (V,F,G,S) (Harrow Bros Ltd) T Bill 10-10-0	J Railton	77
616	P-051SP	SHOTINGO 18 (D,G,S) (W Sheedy) W Sheedy 11-10-0	S Hodgson (7)	53

Long handicap: Fit For Firing 9-12, Royal Cracker 9-11, Shotingo 8-3.

BETTING: 9-2 Al Hashimi, 5-1 Romany King, 7-1 Gold Options, 8-1 Mr Entertainer, Fu's Lady, 10-1 Cuddy Dale, 14-1 New Halen, Skipping Tim, 16-1 Wink Gulliver, Auntie Dot, 16-1 Fit For Firing, 20-1 others.

1990: NEW HALEN 9-9-7 E Tierney (66-1) A James 14 ran

FORM FOCUS GOLD OPTIONS ridden out to beat Farmlea Boy (rec 16lb) 2½l at Kempton (2m 4f, good) with MR ENTERTAINER in lead when falling 5 out; previously beat Katabatic 4l over same course and distance with CUDDY DALE (8lb better off) 20l 3rd.

IDA'S DELIGHT running-on ½l 2nd to Katabatic in valuable handicap at Wetherby (2m 4f 100yd, good) with NEW HALEN (5lb better off) 15l 3rd. CUDDY DALE neck 2nd to Docklands Express at Kempton (3m, good). FU'S LADY pushed out to beat Setter Country (rec 28lb) 1l at Wincanton (2m, good) with WINK GULLIVER (1lb better off) 28l 5th.

NEW HALEN led from 2 out to beat AL HASHIMI (3lb better off) 25l over course and distance in December. AL HASHIMI 3½l 2nd to Sabin Du Loir at Worcester (2m 4f, soft) with AUNTIE DOT (15lb worse off) 15l 3rd and NEW HALEN (9lb worse off) 10l 5th. MR ENTERTAINER ridden out to beat Sire Nantais 6l at Newbury (2m 4f, good).

ROMANY KING one-paced 5l 3rd to Simah Jay at Warwick (2m 4f, good to soft) with AUNTIE DOT (same terms) 7l 6th and SKIPPING TIM (5lb better off) well-beaten 9th; previously beat AUNTIE DOT (4lb better off) 1½l over same course and distance (soft) with FOYLE FISHERMAN (7lb better off) 30l 5th.

Selection: GOLD OPTIONS

NEWTON ABBOT

Selections

By Mandarin
2.00 Repaldo.
2.35 Blue Bourbon.
3.10 Miss Chalk.
3.45 Gay Moore.
4.20 Driver.
4.55 Fortlimon.

By Thunderer
2.00 Bold Imp.
2.35 Blue Bourbon.
3.10 Belpenel.
3.45 Mister Christian.
4.20 Driver.
4.55 Meziara.

Going: heavy SIS

2.0 DANSK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,910: 2m 150yd) (13 runners)

1		MRS MEADOWS 929F (J Shears) J Shears 6-12-0	P Johnson (7)	—
2	P04-1P1	REPALDO 20 (D,F,G) (D Cresse) R Hodges 5-11-10	A Tory	98
3	F300-3	BALASANI 111 (M Smith) M Pipe 5-11-8	M Richards	88
4	451250	SEE NOW 20 (CD,S) (D Bolt) Mrs A Knight 6-11-8	G Knight	97
5	0003/6P-	BOLD IMP 331 (J Heritage) R Akehurst 6-11-2	J Railton	97
6	0/0035P	ONE TO NOTE 16 (Noteworthy Friends) M Muggeridge 7-11-1	W Irvine	97
7	00-010P	BENJAMIN LANCASTER 49 (CD,S) (M Griffin) T Hallett 7-10-5	A Webb	94
8	06-0	BLICO 16 (S Pike) S Pike 7-10-3	R Greene (5)	● 99
9	UPP-	FOX'S FROLIC 331 (J Baker) J Baker 6-10-1	S Burrough (5)	—
10	P/0P0P/	JESTELLE 742 (D Denny) Mrs S Minns 8-10-0	T A Cranley (7)	—
11	040/P0P	AFRICAN OPERA 47 (S Turton) S Turton 7-10-0	G Upton (3)	—
12	00P/	COOMBE 881 (L Waring) L Waring 6-10-0	A Jones	—
13	0P/PP-6	TORRANCE 13 (C Pester) Mrs J Wonnacott 7-10-0	S Foster (7)	—

Long handicap: Jestelle 9-12, African Opera 9-10, Coombe 9-8, Torrance 9-8.

BETTING: 2-1 Balasani, 9-4 Repaldo, 5-1 Bold Imp, 8-1 One To Note, 10-1 See Now, 14-1 Blico, 16-1 Benjamin Lancaster, 20-1 others.

1990: RUSHLUAN 6-10-6 W Irvine (9-1) R Hodges 12 ran

2.35 CARLSBERG SPECIAL BREW NOVICES CHASE (£2,715: 2m 150yd) (7 runners)

1	01R222	BLUE BOURBON 8 (BF,D,S) (P Williams) R Holder 7-11-9	E Byrne	● 99
2	P0FU0P	MAHONSTOWN BRIDGE 11 (D Paull) P Rodford 11-11-4	Mr S Kerr	—
3	2P-R220	MILITARY BAND 8 (G,S) (M Sweet) Mrs J Retter 13-11-4	Mr P Schofield	75
4	410-802	MONK'S MISTAKE 14 (F,G,S) (G Goldstein) R Lee 9-11-4	J Shortt	87
5	P	RAPIDS RUN 89 (Mrs E Collinson) J Collinson 9-10-13	R Bellamy (3)	—
6	6-6450U	SARA LANE 71 (B) (S Pearce) N Ayliffe 7-10-13	M Kinane	—
7	300350	EVENING RAIN 20 (B Roussel Ltd) R Hodges 5-10-10	A Tory	—

BETTING: 4-7 Blue Bourbon, 9-4 Monk's Mistake, 4-1 Military Band, 20-1 Evening Rain, 33-1 others.

1990: GO WEST 6-11-8 J Frost (9-4 fav) M Pipe 13 ran

3.10 CARLSBERG ELEPHANT BEER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,680: 2m 150yd) (18 runners)

1	21U0-P0	MOTTRAM'S GOLD 42 (B,S) (G Brown) R Dickin 6-11-11	Martin Jones (3)	90
2	500-00	BOHEA DESTROYER 67 (Exors of the late Mrs A Durbin) C Broad 6-11-10	A Carroll	91
3	0001-05	BELPENEL 8 (D,G) (Mrs B Key) C Smith 5-11-8	C Smith	91
4	104-23R	MISS CHALK 14 (D,BF,S) (A Matar) M Pipe 5-11-6	M Richards	96
5	U43235	BUCKLAND HAZE 37 (J Doran) P Cowley 5-11-4	D Leahy (7)	90
6	0/5-4204	SHELLY'S FOLLY 20 (N Jones) Mrs Gill E Jones 8-11-3	C Dempsey (7)	87
7	080-335	FEARSOME 186 (Mrs J Wonnacott) Mrs J Wonnacott 5-11-3	Mr A Wonnacott	91
8	2054	NDITA 20 (S Bennett) R Hodges 5-11-2	A Tory	93
9	005P02	ACROW LINE 41 (Orthopaedic Bedding Advisory Service) J Fox 6-11-2	S Fox (7)	96
10	0663-P1	PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 14 (B,D,S) (F Brown) R Juckes 5-11-2	A Juckes (5)	90
11	46021	WOOD CORNER 43 (P Tylor) R Frost 6-11-2	C Hopwood	95
12	F05-006	DONNA'S TOKEN 43 (B) (R Brown) M Brown 6-10-11	J Brown	94
13	6-03540	CHARDAY 28 (H Horler) Miss C Horler 6-10-11	G Upton (3)	85
14	000	KID LEWIS 47 (A Samuel) Mrs A Knight 4-10-9	G Knight	—
15	55P030	SHEIKH'S PET 27 (B) (C Pester) Mrs J Wonnacott 5-10-9	S Foster (7)	92
16	402-6F0	MUSICAL MOMENTS 50 (B) (R Gamercote) J Roberts 5-10-8	A Mulholland	● 99
17	0/P0-00	SEDGEWELL ORCHID 14 (Mrs L Webb) R Holder 6-10-8	E Byrne	—
18	4-P40P0	RATHMICHAEL 15 (B) (P Haywood) W G Turner 5-10-7	S Burrough (5)	88

BETTING: 7-2 Miss Chalk, 5-1 Pontevecchio Bella, 15-2 Wood Corner, 8-1 Acrow Line, 10-1 Bohea Destroyer, Belpenel, Shelly's Folly, Fearsome, Ndita, 12-1 Mottram's Gold, Buckland Haze, 14-1 others.

1990: GOLD'N SOFT 6-10-10 S Hodgson (8-1) J O'Shea 17 ran

3.45 CARLSBERG DISTRIBUTORS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,379: 3m 2f 100yd (7 runners)

1	0/P0PP-6	BURANNPOUR 8 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Weinstein) G Balding 11-11-10	M Perrett	—
2	2244P3	MISTER CHRISTIAN 23 (B,C,G,S) (J Gaisford) C James 10-11-1	G Upton (3)	● 99
3	551-P4P	SANDICLIFFE BOY 11 (S) (G Bailey) R Lee 10-10-12	J Shortt	96
4	1/1140-4	GAY MOORE 117 (D,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Robinson 10-10-8	J White	97
5	42U-405	WIMBLEBALL 48 (F,S) (J Payne) J Payne 11-10-0	D Gallagher	89
6	2/13-653	DR PEPPER 14 (V,D,G,S) (Food Brokers Ltd) D Barons 14-10-0	R Greene (5)	83
7	45346P	CANTORIAL 29 (F,G,S) (Mrs C Hayton) C Popham 10-10-0	S Donohoe (7)	70

Long handicap: Wimbleball 9-3, Dr Pepper 9-0, Cantorial 8-9.

BETTING: 15-8 Mister Christian, 7-2 Gay Moore, 5-1 Sandicliffe Boy, 6-1 Dr Pepper, 8-1 Burannpour, 10-1 Wimbleball, 16-1 Cantorial.

1990: TORSIDE 11-11-10 J Frost (2-5 fav) M Pipe 7 ran

4.20 CARLSBERG PILSNER NOVICES HURDLE (£1,998: 2m 5f 110yd) (16 runners)

1	6/FR-124	GEORGE BUCKINGHAM 59 (S) (B Thatcher) G Ham 6-11-6	M A Fitzgerald (7)	90
2	042341	DRIVER 14 (F,S) (D Hall) M Brown 5-11-4	J Brown	● 99
3	3P	ATHOS 212 (G Roe) G Roe 6-11-1	D Gallagher	85
4	0P	BLAKEINGTON 19 (Mrs J Bugg) N Mitchell 5-11-1	D Skyrme (3)	—
5	20	HAIRY MAC 75 (D Newell) P Hobbs 5-11-1	C Maude (3)	83
6	6	JUST ASWISE 74 (Miss J Barrow) R Barrow 6-11-1	—	—
7	025-00	LUCKY LANDERS 8 (S Dunster) M Pipe 6-11-1	M Richards	—
8	0B	PUNKY KNAVE 8 (Mrs C A Paterson) W G M Turner 5-11-1	M Ahern (3)	—
9		TOMMY TINKER (Mrs S Williams) Mrs S Williams 5-11-1	—	—
10	P	BRANDY SEASON 62 (S Stevens) S Stevens 5-10-10	Mr T Greed	—
11	0U20	CELTIC DIAMOND 8 (Mrs K Stuart) Mrs J Retter 6-10-10	S Burrough (5)	96
12	55	DAVES DELIGHT 8 (Miss S Waterman) Miss S Waterman 5-10-10	Miss S Waterman	—
13	9	JACK'S LOVELY LADY 81 (Mrs J Edgeworth) O Sherwood 6-10-10	N Coleman	—
14		NEWSKI EXPRESS (Mrs O Bertinald) Mrs J Wonnacott 6-10-10	Mr A Wonnacott	—
15	U-0	WIMBLEBALL LASS 48 (J Payne) J Payne 6-10-10	—	—
16		WOODGRADE LASS (Woodgrade Ltd) N Ayliffe 5-10-10	M Kinane	—

BETTING: 5-4 Driver, 4-1 George Buckingham, 11-2 Hairy Mac, 6-1 Celtic Diamond, 10-1 Lucky Landers, 12-1 Jack's Lovely Lady, 20-1 others.

1990: OLVESTON 6-11-1 J Frost (evens fav) D Barons 9 ran

4.55 CARLSBERG EXPORT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,593: 2m 5f 110yd) (18 runners)

1	542001	DROWSY 9 (B,G,S) (Stablemates Partnership) O Sherwood 9-12-3 (7ex)	P M Johnson (7)	95
2	1311PP	BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 21 (C,F,G,S) (N Pay) J Thomas 5-11-9	A David (7)	● 99
3	P0U631	SHAH'S CHOICE 6 (CD,F,S) (A Skidmore) C Popham 8-11-6 (7ex)	S Donohoe (7)	95
4	1-32222	SILKS DOMINO 4 (B) (Mrs J Goode) O O'Neill 6-11-4	V Slattery (7)	92
5	P65-41	FORTLIMON 23 (G,S) (Pipe Scudamore Racing Plc) M Pipe 5-11-1	M Richards	96
6	5P14-53	HATS HIGH 16 (B,S) (Mrs J Gray) F Gray 6-11-0	M Crosse	90
7	4-5452P	MEZIARA 4 (V,CD,S) (G Wiley) D Tucker 10-11-0	N Coleman	85
8	540334	GRACE MOORE 18 (F) (A Raleon) K Bishop 7-10-11	M A Fitzgerald (7)	85
9	U-05006	JUDYS LINE 40 (C,S) (Miss S Waterman) Miss S Waterman 7-10-7	Miss S Waterman	87
10	60033-0	FROSTY RECEPTION 19 (P Power) J Baker 6-10-7	S Burrough (5)	87
11	P/FPP-	ALARM CALL 59F (G) (W Francis) N Kernick 8-10-2	E Byrne	—
12	0R002/5-	QUAYSIDE BUOY 537 (J Needham) J Needham 8-10-0	J Shortt	—
13	358P60	GORSE HUNTER 13 (G) (N Savery) P Hobbs 8-10-0	C Maude (3)	88
14	0-05040	BEJAYJAY 49 (B,S) (J Doran) P Cowley 7-10-0	D Leahy (7)	74
15	00R445	VOMERO 47 (M Disney) D Barons 6-10-0	R Greene (5)	85
16	05PP1/5	PROSETT 13 (G,S) (A Good) J Fox 13-10-0	S Fox (7)	—
17	05600/0-	SOLENT SUN 505 (B Stevens) B Stevens 6-10-0	M Stevens (7)	—
18	0PP-0PP	WOODLANDS GENPOWER 8 (V,G) (Miss M Preece) P Pritchard 9-10-0	P Barnard	—

Long handicap: Quayside Boy 9-12, Gorse Hunter 9-12, Beejayjay 9-5, Vomero 9-4, Prosett 9-4, Solent Sun 9-3, Woodlands Genpower 8-10.

BETTING: 2-1 Fortlimon, 7-2 Shah's Choice, 5-1 Silks Domino, 6-1 Drowsy, 8-1 Meziara, 10-1 Frosty Reception, 12-1 Bright Sapphire, Gorse Hunter, 14-1 Hats High, 16-1 Grace Moore, 20-1 others.

1990: DOMINION TREASURE 5-10-11 W McFarland (85-40 fav) J Baker 15 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M Pipe	141	426	33.1	A Mulholland	5	16	31.3
O Sherwood	12	37	32.4	C Maude	4	22	18.2
R Holder	20	107	18.7	A Webb	14	82	17.1
J Fox	5	33	15.2	C Smith	3	24	12.5
G Ham	10	68	14.7	N Coleman	15	123	12.2
J Baker	19	132	14.4	M Richards	5	47	10.6

Underwood leaves try-scorers in his slipstream

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

MARC ASPLAND

Ready for a day at the office: Underwood takes his work into the cockpit of this Canberra and into the skies above his home base, RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire

"Seven years and 42 caps seem to have gone by in the flicker of an eyelid" — at least Rory Underwood, one of the Royal Air Force's best known sporting assets, resisted the obvious pun that time flies; now he stands on the verge of his 43rd cap which would leave him equal with Tony Neary as England's most-capped player.

He has left behind a famous band. For 42 years Wavell Wakefield held the distinction before his tally of 31 was overtaken in 1969 by Budge Rogers (34). Then John Pullin, a third forward, set the mark at 42 in 1976 before Neary. the Broughton Park flanker whose undervalued skills should have taken him past fifty, made it to 43 in the grand slam match against Scotland in 1980.

Underwood, too, will win his 43rd cap in a grand slam encounter, when England play France at Twickenham on Saturday. The Leicester wing, who has missed three overseas tours during his career, has the prospect of becoming the first England player to win fifty caps during the coming year.

Today Underwood will motor south from Grantham, down the A1 — a road he knows far too well after so many England squad sessions — passing to the west of RAF Wyton where his squadron is stationed, and so to Richmond where the national squad will meet.

"You occasionally think it would be nice to set a target, more matches than anyone else, more tries, but it's not something you spend every waking minute on," Underwood said. As it happens he will do both: the try which effectively earned England the triple crown in Dublin earlier this month was his 26th in internationals, though it was the one he scored against Ireland at Twickenham last season which took him past Cyril Lowe's 18 tries, a record which had stood since 1923.

Underwood now stands fourth in the all-time list of try-scorers, behind the Australian David Campese (37), the Frenchman Serge Blanco (33) whom he meets on Saturday, and the New Zealander John Kirwan (28). "Campese's such a good all-round footballer. He's not the fastest, but he has all the running skills and he can beat opponents with guile.

"But all the best wings present different problems. Kirwan is so strong. But Patrice Lagisquet is someone I have immense respect for. You can't tell what he will do and he's one of the fastest around. He has to be right up there with the best of them."

Lagisquet will not be on France's left wing at Twickenham because of injury, though his colleagues will make sure Underwood does not have it easy.

He scored his first international try in Paris, in his second international in 1984; he had to wait until last year before scoring against the French again, but even more tedious than that long gap was the lack of opportunity given to a young man trying to grow into an England team which, in his first calendar year as an international, used 51 players.

Having made his debut as a 20-year-old he scored just twice in four seasons. His pace and strength went unused: "The England side in those days was not well-organised to play a decent game. At Leicester we were, but the best comparison to make between England then and now is that England is now more organised than any side in the country.

"You have to make sure you cover all aspects of the game with England. For 24 hours a day, two or three days at a time, you are together, dissecting matches, watching videos and debating the intricacies of play. With a club side you tend to build throughout the season and there is only a short time for discussion at training twice a week.

"The development of this England side has been going on over three years and all the things we have talked about have come to fruition. Only now do you realise what was missing earlier in the eighties and I think a lot of it is to do with Geoff Cooke. Mike Weston set up this management role but Geoff has been the driving force behind the last three years ... establishing a good management structure, a squad, coaching. skills, teamwork."

Underwood's own gifts, apparent when he played for England colts after leaving Barnard Castle School, began to approach fruition against Ireland in 1988. The advent of Chris Oti meant his removal from the left to the right wing, in which position he scored two of England's six tries against the luckless Irish: "The first of them was my first try for England at Twickenham in the championship and it gave me enormous satisfaction.

"It was also quite a good try because I cut back inside, bumped someone off and dummied Trevor Ringland to go over under the posts."

Since then, Underwood has developed a remarkable facility for scoring in the tightest of corners, retaining a delicate sense of balance under considerable physical pressure: "It's a matter of concentrating to stay in play and get the ball down over the line. I just focus on the corner."

If it sounds easy, it is not. Underwood scores tries which might baffle other fine wings. He has been accused of disengaging from games, of being less than secure in defence, though neither of those debits have been obvious over the last three years — the time, in fact, when he found himself working at his game as never before.

"It has been a gradual process and, during that time, I have got married, we have a daughter and there are other responsibilities. But if you want to make the grade you make sacrifices along the way. I can't fault the RAF for how they have allowed me to get on with my career and play rugby. There is a lot of ignorance about what is involved. I met someone recently who was surprised to find I had a full-time job, he thought we were professionals. But we are all working members of the public who happen to play international rugby."

Alpine resort too slow to sound its own trumpet

David Miller

Aosta

HEADING southeast out of Geneva, and ignoring that fragmented assembly of Haute Savoie resorts to the west, which next January will shamelessly comprise the French Tourism Olympics, you arrive at the Mont Blanc tunnel. At the far end, you fall, almost literally, into picturesque Courmayeur.

Here, in the glorious Aosta Valley, lies Italy's winter sports secret, so well kept by the local bidding committee that there is the risk it will not be discovered in time for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at Birmingham in June. The Winter Olympics are primarily about Alpine sports. Aosta's is the only bid out of six cities competing for election for 1998 that is in an Alpine environment.

The immediate impression is that Aosta, coming in the wake of consecutive European games at Albertville and Lillehammer, can be a far stronger candidate for 2002, by when it will have geared its public relations to the high profile bidding operation.

Aosta's games would be almost everything that the so-called games of Albertville will not be. Instead of grinding around hundreds of miles of inadequate mountain roads between distant venues, almost impassable because of congestion, armed with a sleeping bag and a St Bernard, as we will be next year, Aosta offers a complex in which every sport is easily accessible.

From here to Courmayeur — men's giant slalom and slalom, women's super-G and giant slalom — via the new autostrada currently under construction will be 15 minutes. Pila, for the women's downhill, via cable-car, will be 18 minutes. Cogne, nestling in its own valley beneath the 4,000 metre Gran Paradiso, is a Nordic centre comparable to Canmore at Calgary and is 25 minutes away.

What Albertville has had, and Aosta as yet has not, is that special, international *je ne sais quoi* of its joint presidents, Michel Barnier and Jean-Claude Killy, either of whom could convince you that Air Europe had a future and leave you unoffended when you learned the truth.

Albertville received the 1992 Games because the IOC felt guilty about neglecting Paris for Barcelona. The IOC owes Italy nothing. Even if it is 30 years and more since the Games of Rome and Cortina. The problems at Aosta, besides its own introspective nature, is that the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) is so preoccupied with its own affairs, its domestic political manoeuvering for the administration of its gigantic funds, that it has small impact on year-by-year IOC affairs.

Franco Carraro, the IOC member who at one time seemed to be heading for prominence within either FIFA or the IOC has become a shadow on the fringe of international power, while the 87-year-old Georgio de Stefani, much-respected, is too elderly to carry clout for northern mountain cousins. Under the present *modus operandi* of CONI, any Milan bid for the summer games of 2000 would, at least initially, lack thrust.

Aosta's strength is its wealth. The smallest of Italy's 20 regions, Vale d'Aosta, enjoys the privilege of independent government. At the end of the second world war, De Gaulle had in mind re-acquiring the valley as a victory prize for France; agriculturally rich Aosta had belonged to Savoie in the eleventh century.

In successfully campaigning to remain Italian, the bilingual valley gained unique tax concessions. The customs duty for the massive trucks that endlessly rolled southwards out of the Mont Blanc and Grand St Bernard tunnels is retained by local government.

Not only that, but the valley provides the electricity for industrial Milan and Turin, while at Saint Vincent, ten minutes south of here, there is a casino network taking more money from Milanese millionaires than Monte Carlo does, providing a tenth of the region's income. For all their introspection, the valley people possess a business instinct, having been on the trading route between the Mediterranean and Northern Europe since Aosta's foundation in Augustan time BC.

Several years ago, Dr Enzo Bertolini, a local scientist resident in Oxfordshire, had attempted to warn the bid committee that a more international perspective was essential to any Olympic bid; that, for a start, most of the IOC members spoke English.

In its charming, self-contained self-reliance, Aosta was reluctant to act. Their one point of communication rested with Glorianda Cipolla, seventh in the Grenoble downhill of 1968, and a much-travelled Cormayeur business-woman of vision. Yet her request to open a publicity base in Rome during the World Cup, to reach a huge audience, was rejected.

Aosta was in the middle of elections and a change of government, after 15 years, to a new coalition party. First things first. Only now, with the appointment of the multilingual Gian Paolo Ormezzano, a journalist with experience of 12 Olympic Games, as PR consultant, are the amiable Bruno Milanesio and his committee reaching their voting electorate. It may be too late for 1998. For 2002 they could be hard to beat.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather + temp (5pm)	°C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	0	44	fair	heavy	closed	sun	12	3/3
Good skiing on highest runs in morning								
Obergurgl	40	100	good	fair	slushy	fine	5	9/3
Good snow above Hochgurgl								
Schladming	0	20	slushy	heavy	closed	fair	10	16/2
Skiing available on some upper pistes								
FRANCE								
Flaine	30	200	good	varied	poor	sun	8	9/3
Spring skiing conditions, very warm								
La Plagne	110	240	good	varied	worn	sun	5	9/3
Good on upper slopes. Lower slushy								
Megève	25	140	fair	heavy	slushy	fine	15	9/3
Good on all upper slopes								
Val d'Isère	85	150	good	heavy	fair	fine	-1	9/3
Excellent skiing above 2,000m								
Val Thorens	110	240	fair	crust	slushy	fine	0	9/3
Still good snow on upper slopes								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	15	60	fair	heavy	worn	fine	7	9/3
Higher pistes offer reasonable skiing								
Gstaad	0	35	fair	varied	worn	fine	9	9/3
Reasonable on upper slopes								
St Moritz	55	75	good	varied	worn	sun	5	9/3
Skiing remains good all upper slopes								
Verbier	20	220	good	varied	slushy	cloud	8	9/3
Excellent conditions on upper slopes								
Villars	20	50	fair	heavy	closed	fine	11	9/3
Some good skiing								
Wengen	10	70	good	spring	closed	fine	10	9/3
Good early morning skiing								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: upper, middle and lower, complete. Chairlifts and tows closed. **Glenshee:** snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete. Access roads open; chairlifts open; tows closed. **Lecht:** snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 700ft. Runs: main, some complete. Access roads open; five tows open. **Aonach Mor:** snow level, 2,100ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: main, complete, wet; beginner, wet and patchy. Access roads open; most tows open. **Glencoe:** snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete. Area opening tomorrow.

Forecast: A very mild day over all resorts. Some cloud, however, will bring showers to most regions. Cloud bases will be 1,500ft in the west, 2500ft in the east. Freezing levels will be around 6,000ft. Winds will be south to southwesterly, light to fresh. **Outlook:** Start bright with the odd shower tomorrow, with persistent rain reaching the west during the afternoon. Winds will also strengthen.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Equality's potential for ruling the waves

By Jane Wyatt

ONE of the key words bandied around in sports for the disabled is "integration": the desire, the right, for closer links with the mass sporting movement as it applies to the able-bodied. How much ground has been covered depends on the sport involved and the enlightenment of the governing body behind it as well as the activity's own potential for participation by all.

Sailing is one rapidly expanding sport with tremendous potential for equality. The boat is the means of locomotion; legs or wheelchairs are irrelevant. Of course, there has to be modifications to take account of balance problems, the lack of upper body strength or grip difficulties, but the results are the same. The exhilaration of being on the water, the skills of the helmsmen, the principles of seamanship are inviolable.

To encourage and develop both recretational and competitive racing amongst people with disabilities, Sailability was set up in 1987 with the support of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). The organisation aims to create regional teams throughout the country, consisting of a sailor with a disability, a RYA instructor, a therapist and a band of volunteers. These teams then act as co-ordinators bringing those who wish to sail into contact with those who can provide the opportunities.

Sailability is hoping that the sport will feature as a demonstration event at the Barcelona paralympics, which would create further interest. It seems a strong possibility as Princess Christina, of Spain, sits on the International Handicapped Sailing Committee. The dinghy used would be a Raquero, similar to a Wayfarer, but with a special keel that prevents capsizing.

Trying to right a capsize can be impossible for a crew with disabilities, so this is the one area where major modifications must be made. There are relatively few cheap boats, like the Dragon or the Flying 15, that disabled people can sail.

However, the secretary of Sailability, Sir Ian Harrison, and the first step in promulgating closer links with the sailing fraternity in general, is to have the sport established as a paralympic event. The RYA is lending its support by locating a coach for the international team and its Seamanship Foundation is working with Sailability on the future of sailings for disabled people.

Cardiff's pack leads way to trophy

By Michael Austin

Cardiff IHE 47
West London IHE 12

FOR the present, West London Institute must restrict their celebrations to the club's centenary dinner on Friday because Cardiff, heavier and more seasoned in the pack, comfortably repelled their challenge in the British Colleges cup final at Reading yesterday.

Cardiff, with another name change this season from South Glamorgan Institute, retained the trophy in style, thus concentrating West London minds on their Student League cup final against Bristol University at Marlow next Tuesday evening.

Cardiff fielded a cosmopolitan combination to which the cynics might attribute this success. Barton, a former England schools No. 8 and Green, the lock, who has captained the English Students, were outstanding for Cardiff, along with Daniels, a British student power-lifting champion, and Goodwin, another Wales under-21 player.

A match in which there were rather too many off-the-ball skirmishes, began productively for West London. Cardiff were twice marched back for not retiring after conceding a penalty, which Cathcart duly landed from 45 yards.

Extra upper body strength profited Cardiff, but the place-kicking failures of Bebb, with three misses in his first four attempts, detracted from their dominance before a burst of scoring from the forwards. Bebb proceeded to kick six conversions and a penalty goal from 11 attempts, and scored the final try to finish with 19 points.

Barton plunged over from a close-in scrum and Goodwin crowned a burst of short inter-passing for a second try.

Cardiff eventually scored eight tries to one from West London, by Shackel, a flanker, who sprinted 30 yards unopposed from a scrum. A prolonged bout of fisticuffs among the forwards spoiled the final minutes after West London, having been awarded a penalty following dangerous play, reacted angrily.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Barton (2), Goodwin, Daniels, Hodkinson, Pawson, Harries, Bebb. **Conversions:** Bebb (6). **Penalty goal:** Bebb. **West London: Try:** Shackel. **Conversion:** Cathcart. **Penalty goals:** Cathcart (2).

CARDIFF INSTITUTE: P Harries; A Hodkinson, A Ward, G Lewis, J Pawson; I Bebb, N Lloyd; D Morgan, H Daniels, J Alvis, C Goodwin, J Green, C Davies, M Kitchen, J Barton.

WEST LONDON INSTITUTE: J Strutt; P Spyropoulos, S Reed, K Brown, J Spender; S Cathcart, T Ellis; R Dew, S Dempsey, J Cooke, M Shackel, M Kennedy, N Dawes, C Williams, P Ager.

Referee: P Emerson (Berkshire).

RUGBY UNION

Howard forecasts a happy end to England's season

By Peter Bills

THE Englishman with the closest insight into the merits of many of the French players who will be seeking to achieve the grand slam at Twickenham has no doubts about which team will finish this season as five nations' champions.

Fred Howard, referee *par excellence*, has handled both matches the French champions, Racing Club de France, have played this season against last season's beaten championship finalists, Agen. He was also a touch judge at Parc des Princes when France overran Wales by six tries to nil earlier this month.

Yet Howard offers more than simply nationalistic reasons for forecasting a good English victory on Saturday.

"I feel England have the nous to tie up the French forwards, a lot of whom are naive at this level," he said. "International rugby is another dimension and, while this French side has been together for no more than two months, the England team has been virtually settled for two years.

"I believe England will be too streetwise for them. They will stifle them up front and prevent the French forwards winning the sort of ball the French backs need to win a match."

Howard chooses his words carefully in assessing the French performance against Wales. Diplomatically, he suggests that the space and time the French backs enjoyed that day may not be available.

"England will not allow France to play anything like that. Personally, I don't think France are as good as people are making them out to be. New Zealand showed that last autumn and things are not that much different now compared to then.

"Before you start to perform at international level, you must gain experience and become very streetwise. For example, England's back-row men know what international back-row play is all about. I don't think France do yet."

Howard was invited to handle both Racing v Agen matches and enjoyed "a very, very pleasant occasion" in Paris in December. Alas, he soon discovered that match was only in the Yves du Manoir tournament; the championship game, a month later in Agen, produced a first 15 minutes he described as "absolutely diabolical".

Howard recalled: "I bent over backwards to keep people on the field, but eventually it was impossible. An Agen forward kicked someone in the head and had to go."

He discounts any prospect of such gross indiscipline from the French at Twickenham. "Les Peard, the referee, is known and respected as a disciplinarian. I don't think players will start anything because they are well aware of that.

"The Racing Club backs are good players and Sella, of course, is a world-class player. But England won't play to a pattern which allows them scope. The Racing back-row men are good attacking players but going backwards at Agen they did not look so impressive. I would be very surprised if France won at Twickenham."

Greenwood trys for all his might

By Michael Stevenson

AN EXCELLENT performance by Will Greenwood, the Sedbergh stand-off half, which brought him three tries in the England 18 Group final trial at Nottingham High School at the weekend was not enough to earn him selection for the England team to meet Rosslyn Park Colts at Castlecroft, Wolverhampton, on March 17.

Paul Burke, who broke his leg last year, was on the losing side in the trial but his selection means that Greenwood is relegated to the replacement bench. The Reds beat the Greens 30-19. Other scorers for the Reds were Ayman Razek 2 tries), Andy Maddock (1 try) and Tim Stimpson (3 conversions). The Greens' points came from two tries by Matthew Singer, with Burke converting one and kicking three penalties.

ENGLAND 18-GROUP: T Stimpson (Silcoates); D O'Leary (Campion), N Ryan (Mount St Mary's), D Edwards (Pocklington), A Razek (Loughborough GS); P Burke (Epsom), M Dawson (RGS High Wycombe); D Crompton (Exeter College), M McCarthy (Leeds), S Thompson (Durham), A Diprose (Campion), C Simpson (Hilroad College), B J Mather (Arnold), R Hutton (St Benedict's), E Rollitt (St Paul's). **Replacements:** A Maddock (Plymouth Coll), W Greenwood (Sedbergh), G Beccomell (South Bristol Tech), S Brown (Radley), C Johnson (Bishop Vesey's), W Green (Eastbourne Coll), R Hill (Bishop Wordsworth).

☐ In what is probably the oldest existing fixture, Merchiston Castle ended their triumphant season with a comfortable victory over Edinburgh Academy (32-0) after an earlier 0-0 draw on a day in which two inches of rain fell.

They have survived a number of very tight finishes and their wins against Stewart's Melville, Heriot's, Glenalmond and Merchistonians were all won by three points or less; perhaps their best victory was against Dollar (42-6). They won 15 matches and drew one, scoring 466 points to 113 conceded.

Neath College, who won at Roehampton last spring and have already succeeded in the Welsh College Sevens, have also maintained an unbeaten record with 14 wins and 580 points scored to 98 conceded. They have contributed five players to the Welsh 18 Group: Spencer John, Christian Loader, Steven Martin, Wayne Griffiths and Joseph Furnell and eight to the Welsh Under-19 side.

Millfield, who won with such spirit at the Christ College, Brecon Sevens in midweek had earlier beaten Stoneyhurst (16-12) in the final of the Hereford Marches Sevens. In Ward and Dix, they possess two unobtrusively talented tacticians.

John Fisher, of Purley, won nine and lost 10 matches but found impressive form in their post-Christmas games, winning five and losing only to Tiffin. Their best wins were against Reigate GS (16-0) and Wallington HS (30-7) in their final match. Trinity, Croydon was much the best team they encountered.

In midweek their improved form carried them to victory in the Epsom Invitation Sevens.

New turf for cup finalists

By David Hands

TWO teams who have never contested a final before will do so when Oxford meet Newcastle in the British Polytechnics Cup final at Fylde today.

Oxford appear after an appeal for a replay by Coventry, their semi-final opponents, was disallowed, and will be the more determined for the experience. They beat Coventry 11-7 in a game abbreviated because of the late arrival of their opponents, but more significant was their defeat of Wales, so frequently winners of the competition. They won by controlling the forward exchanges

A front row with a combined weight of 53st and the lineout capacity of Edmondson, one of three forwards who have played in the British Polytechnics representative XV, will pose Newcastle problems. But Newcastle, who were beaten last season by Sheffield (the eventual winners) believe that their back division will make best use of limited possession.

Burnett and McCreath, their half backs from Loretto School, played particularly well in the 22-19 semi-final win against Bristol and the pack, where two locks have been converted to play in the front row, proved solid enough against a strong Liverpool eight in the quarter-finals. Newcastle's rugby league side won the student league and their rugby union players will work hard to emulate them.

Thompson moves to Rosslyn Park

ADRIAN Thompson, the Harlequins centre, who has sat on the England replacements bench regularly in recent seasons, has joined Rosslyn Park. Hugh McHardy, the Rosslyn Park coach, said: "I am delighted. He is a player of excellent ability."

☐ Matt Davies and Andrew Morgan have been called in to the St Mary's team for the Hospitals Cup final against The London at Old Deer Park today, replacing Chris Langrish and Chris Boos.

ST MARY'S: T Poole; D Abrams, R Windle, A Field, A Morgan; R Sutland, C Wright; A Ellery, L O'Hara, N Hurt, G Torkington, P Tooz-Hobson, P Michell, M Davies, S Kelly.

THE LONDON: A Carroll; G Hall, G Soberg, M Windle, I Hamilton; C Jones, P Simmons; R Baker, C Mann, S Curry, A Martin, P Barnes, A Cruickshank, P Moore, S Slack.

☐ Colin Pinnegar, of Bath, leads the Eastern Counties team to play The Netherlands at Grange Road, Cambridge, on Sunday.

EASTERN COUNTIES: K Harman (Saracens); M Gregory (Saracens), J King (Blackheath), M Thompson (Blackheath), A Tunningley (Saracens); A Lee (Saracens), D Moore (North Walsham); A Blowers (Sudbury), B Gardner (North Walsham), P Daley (Southend), C Tarbuck (Saracens), C Pinnegar (Wasps), S Easton (Wasps), G Atherton (Sudbury), E Peters (Loughborough Students).

World Cup competition

The Times tomorrow starts an exclusive three-part competition with prizes of top-quality visits to the greatest event in the rugby union year, the World Cup, including the final at Twickenham. The competition will be in *The Times* tomorrow, Friday and Saturday.

FOOTBALL

The winner's medal that did nothing for Foster's esteem

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

COLIN Foster, introduced to the big time by Brian Clough four years ago, sees the irony of next month's FA Cup semi-final. If selected, the West Ham United central defender will be blocking his former manager's attempt to lead a team out for the first time for the game's most glamorous occasion.

Foster intends to offer Clough no sympathy at Villa Park if Nottingham Forest again fail to reach Wembley after reaching the last four for the third time in recent years. "I hope it ends in disappointment," he said. "He certainly wouldn't feel sorry for me if we lost."

Foster is ambivalent towards Clough. Grateful to have been invited to join Forest, initially on loan before being sold by Leyton Orient for £50,000, he also remembers the deflating experience which persuaded him two years ago that he should leave the club. Coincidentally, it involved being excluded from a final at Wembley.

Six weeks before the Littlewoods Cup triumph over the holders, Luton Town, Foster had been injured but he recovered and thought that he might be selected at least as a substitute.

"He blew me out completely and, even though I was given a winner's medal, I didn't keep it. I didn't think I deserved it."

He gave it to his father and it lies somewhere in the family home in Bromley, which was nearer to where Foster wanted to be. On days off he would drive from Nottingham to London and back, an unnerving journey on the M1 which he describes as "dangerous".

His opinion was confirmed in bizarre circumstances when his girlfriend, travelling to see him, missed the Kegworth air disaster by five minutes. Homesick, he rejected an offer to move even further north to Leeds United and joined West Ham instead for £750,000. "I made somebody a tidy profit," he says.

"Clough was understanding and I think he's the No. 1 manager. If he'd been in charge of England, we might have achieved more. He doesn't go to training now as much as he used to but as soon as he shows his face, the five-a-sides step up about 10 gears."

Foster sees similarities in Clough and his present manager, Billy Bonds. "They get their teams going by talking straight and tough before the game and during half-time."

Selection, though, is no more predictable. West Ham's line-up was revealed only an hour before the start of the quarter final against Everton on Monday night.

Foster, whose volley put West Ham ahead, wondered whether his father had benefited from his usual bet on his son scoring the first goal.

"A few years ago, I was playing against Luton and he ticked the name of Steve Foster by mistake." The slip was costly. Colin claimed the honour.

Stuart Slater, the scorer of West Ham's second stunning goal, could yet fulfill the expectations of Bobby Robson. Some 18 months ago England's former manager — who had offered him terms as an apprentice at Ipswich Town — predicted that he could develop into one of the country's outstanding players.

Although brought up in the East Anglian countryside near Ipswich, Slater turned down the opportunity to join the club he supported as a youngster.

Now 22, he had already been hailed by Howard Kendall as "a million pound player" before embarrassing McDonald and disconcerting the rest of Everton's defence.

After every training session, he indulges in a party trick which has a practical purpose. To improve his technique, he keeps the ball off the ground for as long as he can. His record so far? For charity, a staggering 11,000 touches. It took him three hours.

Webb is ruled out of return

NEIL Webb was yesterday ruled out of Manchester United's European Cup Winners' Cup return match at Montpellier in France next week. He is still recovering from a cracked rib.

Webb and his team colleague, Bryan Robson, restored as England captain last month after an Achilles tendon injury, also misses the rearranged League game at Southampton today, when United are without six first-team players.

Clayton Blackmore, who has a groin injury, the full-back, Dennis Irwin (hamstring), Mark Hughes (ankle) and Steve Bruce (broken toe) are United's other absentees at The Dell. Robson is likely to be fit to face Montpellier, but Bruce is struggling to recover from a broken toe.

Webb's lack of fitness will come as bad news for the England manager, Graham Taylor, who names his squad for the European championship match against Republic of Ireland at Wembley on March 27 this Monday. Of England's midfield candidates, Webb, Paul Gascoigne, Steve McMahon and Steve Hodge are injured.

United's squad for the Dell includes Darren Ferguson, the manager's son, Neil Whitworth, the teenaged central defender, Deniol Graham and the reserve goalkeeper, Gary Walsh.

☐ Everton's attempt to gain a place at Wembley 48 hours after their FA Cup defeat at West Ham United on Monday has been hamstrung by injuries.

They travel to Barnsley today to play their Zenith Data Systems Cup northern semi-final with Kevin Ratcliffe, Graeme Sharp, Andy Hinchcliffe and Neil McDonald doubtful. Howard Kendall, the manager, has drafted a reserve forward, Stuart Barlow, and Mark Wright and Eddie Youds, two defenders, into his squad.

New broom is attacking the cobwebs that have stifled Yorkshire cricket

Rousing a sleeping giant

By PETER BALL

JOAN RUSSELL

Leading from the front: the Yorkshire president, Sir Lawrence Byford, and team captain, Martyn Moxon

MINUTES after Sir Lawrence Byford had been elected president of Yorkshire CCC at last month's annual general meeting, the club's committee proposed that he should be restricted to one three-year term of office. The proposal was dismissed with scorn

"It'd take half that time for him to get his feet under t'table," one member snorted. He did not know his man. Sir Lawrence's impact on the club's affairs has soon become apparent.

At the annual meeting the committee had rejected calls for the employment of a chief executive to replace the late secretary, Joe Lister. But Sir Lawrence was quick to stamp his authority. The committee handed the decision over to him, the club treasurer, Peter Townend, and a new committee member, Keith Moss, a businessman. An advertisement for the new £30,000 post will appear in *The Times* tomorrow.

"We have got to get away from the traditional club secretary role. We are in a business, and we have to have someone with business acumen. We need someone with a wider dimension," he said.

Sir Lawrence is a Yorkshireman to the bone, who courted his wife watching Yorkshire play (at his wife's insistence, feminists note), and is a regular attender at Elland Road to watch Leeds United. His abilities have been tested in even fiercer hotbeds of intrigue and political infighting than Yorkshire County Cricket Club as the government's adviser on police matters as Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Now in active retirement, with several consultancies and another chairmanship — of the Royal Overseas League — to keep him busy, his feet are firmly in position after two weeks in office.

"My main role, as I see it, having dealt with this in previous occupations, is trying to get people to move towards a consensus for the good of everyone involved," he said. "Here it is even more important because the warring factions and the bickerings have gone on for far too long."

But if, as he insists, he will maintain a position of independence as president, he gave plenty of evidence in his inaugural speech that he intended to be an interventionist president. Forty-eight hours after his election, he reassumed the president's traditional role as chairman, a step taken for granted in the days of Lord Hawke, but a source of conflict which led to the demise of his predecessor but one, Viscount Mountgarret.

Last week, after two days as Yorkshire's representative on the Test and County Cricket Board, he turned his attention to the two major causes of angst at the club, cricket and finance. A meeting to begin the search for Lister's replacement followed lunch with the club's coach and captain, Steve Oldham and Martyn Moxon.

"We've got to advance the team so that it occupies its rightful place as a leading cricketing side in this country, and you've got to have the wherewithal for that to happen, which means having the business acumen and sense to make sure you are making a reasonable profit at the end of the year," he said.

All this suggests, perhaps surprisingly in a policeman, who as a breed tend towards conservatism, that Sir Lawrence is ready to look questioningly at a host of Yorkshire traditions and test them for their continuing utility.

He is already setting in motion talks with Leeds RFC, the club's landlords, over their position as tenants at Headingley, a cause of considerable unease among members. Hitherto sacrosanct policies such as playing in Scarborough, Hull, Sheffield and Middlesbrough, and the county's ban on overseas players could also be tested.

"We have got to get the team back into a position in the top three as of right," he remarked, accepting with a laugh the challenge that revealed the typical Yorkshireman's delusions of grandeur about the cricketing equivalent of Proud Preston or Aston Villa.

Declining membership, the loss of Headingley's status as an automatic Test match ground, and the club's poor financial situation reveal the extent of the task, and there is little doubt the new president is ready for radical change if necessary.

He also left little doubt that he intends to tackle the charges of racism, among spectators and in selecting players, which have been a major blot on the county's good name.

Suggestions that players had been excluded on racial grounds "concerns me to the point that even in the short time I've been in office I have posed what you might consider appropiate questions on this very point," he said. "And from the answers I've been given by the people who are closely involved in promoting the school of excellence, I am convinced it is not for want of effort on their part.

"The most wonderful thing that could happen for Yorkshire would be for a coloured player of ability to work his way into the side. I have been ashamed as a Yorkshire supporter to hear some of the instances [of racial abuse] on this ground, and at Scarborough."

His radicalism is circumscribed however, and he has no inclination to follow Durham's example and turn the club into a limited company, as one member suggested at the annual meeting.

"Is becoming a limited company like Tottenham Hotspur the way forward? We have got to keep the traditional feeling, so that if members come here they still feel the ripple of Sutcliffe and Hutton, but to do that we have got to make sure the balance sheet is healthy."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan pursue a punishing task

By KEITH MACKLIN

WIGAN embark tonight on a punishing and possibly crippling programme of 11 matches in under five weeks as they go in pursuit of a second consecutive championship and Challenge cup double.

Wigan entertain Hull knowing that victory will almost certainly put the Humbersiders out of the reckoning, since Hull have only two home games in their remaining seven fixtures and still have to visit another title contender, Castleford. Castleford are top of the table, but they have played two games more than second-placed Widnes and Hull in third place, and five games more than fourth-placed Wigan.

Castleford have the best-looking fixture list, with three games at home and two away, including a trip to Wigan. Widnes have three home games and four away games and the championship could yet be decided when Wigan entertain Widnes in the final match of the season.

Wigan have Phil Clarke standing by to replace the injured Andy Platt for tonight's game. The one trump card in Wigan's favour as they face as many as three games in a week, is the fact that all three matches against their rivals are at Central Park.

☐ Austin Donagan, the Oldham prop, who has played a key role in their progress to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals, is out of tomorrow's first division game against St Helens. Donagan strained his knee in the third-round win against Salford on Sunday.

ICE SKATING

Soviet pair show damage

From JOHN HENNESSY IN MUNICH

MARINA Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, world ice dance champions for the Soviet Union, could not quite shrug off the suspicion yesterday, when the 1991 championships began, that a recent charge of drug taking, coupled with three disconsolate weeks off the ice, has left its mark.

That unfortunate incident in Sofia, during the European championships, when an erroneous laboratory reading was just as erroneously leaked, left a large question mark hanging over them. A second analysis, in a laboratory approved by the International Olympic Committee subsequently exonerated them, but some permanent damage to their morale had been done.

At any rate, they are marginally worse off after the two compulsory dances here than they were in Sofia in January. On that occasion, they were second in the first dance and first in the second, leaving them alongside their compatriats, Maia Usova and Aleksandr Zhulin with six tenths of a point. They were second on both dances yesterday, which puts them on 0.8 and Usova and Zhulin in the lead on 0.4. Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, partly trained by Christopher Dean, Isabelle's fiancé, are third so far, as in Sofia, on 1.2.

Even so, Klimova and Ponomarenko seemed to be the beneficiaries of a sympathy vote. On the first circuit on the Ravensburger Waltz, Klimova hit the boards and stumbled. Beyond that they were unable to achieve their usual flow and fluency and they were out of time.

Nevertheless they received marks as high as 5.8. Courtney Jones, the British judge, was one among three who placed them first, with 5.7 against the 5.6 of Usova and Zhulin and the 5.5 of the Duchesnays.

The rumba, similarly, found the holders a fraction off the beat and this time Jones fell in line with the majority of eight judges to one. He called it 5.8 to Usova and Zhulin, 5.7 to Klimova and Ponomarenko and 5.5 to the French couple.

Usova and Zhulin, skating splendidly, received the rare accolade for their rumba of a maximum mark of 6.0, the first in a compulsory dance since the reign of Torvill and Dean.

RESULTS: *Ice dance: First two compulsories:* 1, M Usova and A Zhulin (USSR), *0.4pts;* 2, M Klimova and S Ponomarenko (USSR), 0.8; 3, I and P Duchesnay (Fr), 1.2; equal 4, K Engi and A Toth (Hung), O Gritschuk and E Platov (USSR), 1.8; 6, S Calegari and P Camerlengo (It), 2.4; 7, D Yvon and F Palluel (Fr), 2.8; 8, S Rahkamo and P Kokko (Fin), 3.2; 9, A Sargent and R Witherby (US), 3.6; 10, J Petr and M Janoschak (Can), 4.0. Britain: 19, A Hall and J Blomfield, 7.6.

GOLF

Boatman captains amateurs

THE Commonwealth tournament, a quadrennial event between the women amateurs of Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, was last won by the British in 1975, at Ganton, and they have announced a strong side in an attempt to reverse the decline at the Northumberland golf club.

Julie Hall, the British champion from Felixstowe Ferry, is accompanied by two Scots, Elaine Farquharson (Deeside) and Catriona Lambert (Stirling University), and two Welsh players, Vicki Thomas (Pennard) and Helen Wadsworth (Royal Cinque Ports).

Elizabeth Boatman is the non-playing captain. The reserves are Linzi Fletcher (Alnmouth), Fiona Edmond (Frinton-on-Sea) and Katie Tebbet (East Devon).

ROWING

Eton's juniors still leading the field

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

ETON College's supremacy in junior rowing was underlined at the Schools Head yesterday when its first eight rowed majestically away from the chasing pack to retain its headship.

The Eton crew, including three Great Britain junior medal winners, pushed the rate to 38 at the finish and looked technically more advanced than in its earlier performances.

Shrewsbury, a powerful combination which had to negotiate a slower crew at the end of their row, moved to second place but it still has plenty to do to threaten the Etonians in the summer.

A lively Pangbourne crew underlined its earlier promise and St Paul's jumped from tenth place to fourth — the school's best performance for 25 years. Westminster, who are in the process of rebuilding a young crew after its success of last year, pleased their coach with their efforts, and Winchester have clearly found some good personnel once again.

Notable first eight casualties of the day were Hampton and St Edward's, although there was consolation for the latter in the younger age groupings.

Kingston Grammar School's women's eight followed up its impressive Women's Head performance last Saturday with a comfortable win among crews of equal age. A Thames RC quad, winners in the Barn Elms colours last year, repeated its performance and must be receiving notice as potential Great Britain junior competitors.

IN BRIEF

Teenager's big break

RONNIE O'Sullivan, aged 15, has became the youngest player in snooker to compile a 147 break in competition.

The England junior international achieved his maximum on the way to a 5-2 lead over Jamie Woodman in the English amateur championship at Aldershot.

CYCLING: Sean Kelly, the Irish rider, broke his collarbone after falling in the Paris to Nice race.

CRICKET: Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, yesterday presented the English Schools' Cricket Association with cheques for £60,000 from the Lord's Taverners and nearly £11,000 from Esso.

☐ Following the torrential rain of last weekend, MCC's one-day match against Namibia has been rescheduled for Sunday.

☐ Eddie Barlow will return to coach Gloucestershire on April 1.

TABLE TENNIS: Belgium withdrew from yesterday's European super league match in Yugoslavia because of the unrest in Belgrade.

BOXING: Hugh Forde, the former British super-featherweight champion, is to move up to lightweight.

SPORTS POLITICS: Cardiff City Council has banned sports events, sponsored by tobacco companies, in council-owned venues.

HOCKEY

Firms stand by to fill sponsorship vacuum

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

WITH the Poundstretcher contract due to run out at the end of this season, fears that the National League could be without a sponsor for next season may be set at rest.

John Taylor International, the company responsible for working with the Hockey Association in introducing Poundstretcher to hockey sponsorship, announced yesterday that one of three companies would be ready to take over the sponsorship, but that its name could not be disclosed until after the League Cup final at Milton Keynes on May 26.

John Taylor, the chairman and chief executive of the company, said yesterday: "Poundstretcher, along with other allied companies, will be incorporated under the banner of British Airways Leisure Traveller, and so the sponsorship of the National League by Poundstretcher itself will not be continued."

Clubs face enormous rises in affiliation fees if proposals by the management committee of the Hockey Association are approved by the council and later at the annual general meeting in London today. Under the prevailing system clubs are paying £65 per team, so that if a club runs ten teams they contribute £650 a year to the association's fund.

The management committee now recommends an affiliation fee of £100 per team. It also recommends that each affiliated team purchases 12 vouchers at a cost of £48 to be exchanged for tickets for the main outdoor events each year.

St Albans, for instance, who are paying approximately £700 as affiliation fees for their 11 teams, would face an annual bill slightly in excess of £1,600. St Albans, who have sponsorship, can afford it. Less affluent clubs simply cannot.

ATHLETICS

Johnson date is fixed

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, said yesterday that he would not run against Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell, of the United States, before August 5, when they are due to meet over 100 metres in Malmö, Sweden.

Johnson said the race would be his last appearance before the world championships in Tokyo and that he has signed contracts only for the Malmö event and a race in Lapinlahti, Finland, on June 23. There is no agreement for a reported encounter with Lewis in Seville, Spain, he said.

The race in Malmö will be the first between Johnson, Lewis and Burrell since the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988. Johnson won, but had to return the gold medal after he was discovered to have used steroids.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Milwaukee 96, Detroit 85; NY Knicks 90, New Jersey 85; San Antonio 105, Utah 98; Portland 104, Cleveland 98.

CRICKET

ORANJEMUND, Namibia: MCC 181; Oranjemund 94. MCC won by 87 runs.

ROWING

SCHOOLS HEAD OF THE RIVER: Eights: 1, Eton, 12min 53sec; 2, Shrewsbury, 13:01; 3, Pangbourne, 13:08; 4, St Paul's, 13:11; 5, Westminster, 13:12; 6, Winchester, 13:13; 7, Shiplake, 13:14; 8, Hampton, 13:16; 9, Emanuel, 13:18; 10, King's, Canterbury, 13:19. Other division winners: Small school: King's, Ely, 13:37. Second eights: Shrewsbury, 13:29. Junior 16: St Edward's, 13:32. Junior 16, novice: Oratory, 14:32. Women's junior: Kingston GS, 14:47. Women's junior 16: Lady Eleanor Holles, 15:22. Short course eights: Junior 16: St Edward's, 6:38. Junior 15, novice: Eton, 8:42. Junior 14: KCS, Wimbledon, 9:09. Junior 14, restricted: Pangbourne, 9.54. Fours: Quads: Junior: Thames, 12:57. Women's Junior: Kingston RC, 15:14. Short course quads: Junior 15: Windsor, 9:07. Junior 14: King's, Chester, 9:45. Women's junior 16: Bedford HS, 10:23. Coxed fours: Junior: KCS, Wimbledon, 14:38. Junior novice: Cheltenham, 15:25. Junior 16: KCS, Wimbledon, 14:51. Women's junior: Lady Eleanor Holles, 16:09. Women's junior novice: Haberdashers', Monmouth, 17:00. Women's junior 16: George Heriot's, 18:35. Short course fours: Junior 15: Sir William Borlase, 9:28. Junior 15 restricted: Durham, 9:51.

YACHTING

BOC SINGLE-HANDED ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Leading positions of remaining yachts at 11.00 GMT March 12 (with miles to Punta del Este, Uru): Class 2: 2, Buttercup (D McIntyre, Aus), 233; 3, Project City Kids (J Boye, US), 299; 4, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 446; 5, Sebago (H Roth, US), 2,677. Corinthian class: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 451; 2, Global Exposure (R Davis, GB), 871; 3, Shuuendohji (M Baiko, Japan), 1,363.

CANNES: International Cup: Star: 1, A Cooper (GB); 2, J Carlsson (Swe); 3, E Kitzinger (Fr); 4, C Preston (GB). Europe: 1, S Robertson (GB); 2, L Nicolas (Fr); 3, C Gales (Fr). 470: Men: 1, D Lanier (Fr); 2, J-F Berthet (Fr); 3, H Riber (Ger); 4, R Boardman (GB).

BOMBAY, India: Modi Xerox World Enterprise regatta: First race: 1, F Tarapore and K Rao (India); 2, G O'Brien and J Wilson (GB); 3, R Eskaugh and A Service (GB).

HOCKEY

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 10, Wisbech 0 (Chelmsford win championship).

LACROSSE

HIGH WYCOMBE: National schoolgirls tournament: Dodd Cup (Juniors): Final: St Albans 2, Wycombe Abbey 1.

CYCLING

PARIS TO NICE RACE: Third stage (Cusset to St Etienne, 157km): 1, A Kappes (Ger) 4hr 18min 42sec; 2, M Vermote (Bel); 3, J-P van Poppel (Neth), both same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Rominger, 5hr 24min 32sec; 2, C Chaubet (Fr), 4sec behind; 3, P Lance (Fr), same time.

TOUR OF MURCIA: First stage (Murcia to Yecla, 190km): 1, J Dauwe (Bel), 5hr 09min 54sec; 2, J Lieckens (Bel), same time; 3, R Pagnin (It), same time. Second stage (Yecla to Jumilla, 178km): 1, D Abdujaparov (USSR), 4hr 24min 31sec; 2, P Pieters (Neth), same time; 3, O Ludwig (Ger), same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Ludwig; 2, S Lilholt (Den); 3, R Verdonck (Bel), all 9hr 34min 25sec.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: First division: Leigh 24, Hull 40; Warrington 17, Wakefield Trinity 22.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Swindon Wildcats 13, Basingstoke Beavers 5.

SQUASH RACKETS

SRA WOMEN'S SUPERLEAGUE: Yellow Pages Caversham bt Reebok Nottingham, 2-1 (M Le Moignan lost to L Opie, 4-9, 6-9, 8-10; S Fitzgerald bt S Horner, 9-6, 9-0, 10-8; S Wright bt S Brady, 0-9, 10-9, 9-6, 9-7); Lee-on-Solent lost to Brooke Colets, 0-3 (L Souter lost to M Martin, 1-9, 0-9, 5-9; L Charman lost to A Cumings, 10-9, 9-4, 3-9, 5-9, 1-9; F Roberts lost to C Jackman, 1-9, 1-9, 3-9). Final league positions: 1, Caversham, 39pts; 2, Nottingham, 32; 3, Colets, 32; 4, Courtlands, 11; 5, Lee-on-Solent, 6.

LILLESHALL: Dunlop National schools championships: Finals: Boys: Lancing bt Norwich, 3-2. Girls: North Walsham bt Millfield, 4-1.

SKIING

LAKE LOUISE, Canada: World Cup: Women: Slalom: 1, V Schneider (Switz), 1min 26.22sec; 2, K Andersson (Swe), 1:26.55; 3, A Wachter (Austria) 1:27.34. Leading World Cup slalom positions: 1, P Kronberger (Austria), 68pts; 2, Fernandez Ochoa, 67; 3, Salvenmoser, 63. Leading overall World Cup positions: 1, Kronberger, 293pts; 2, C Merle (Fr), 178; 3, S Ginther (Austria), 149.

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, N Faldo (GB), 19.23pts; 2, G Norman (Aus), 17.62; 3, J M Olazabal (Sp), 17.09; 4, I Woosnam (GB), 16.56; 5, P Stewart, 12.36; 6, P Azinger, 11.59; 7, T Kite, 10.22; 8, M McNulty (Zim), 10.08; 9, C Strange, 9.73; 10, S Ballesteros (Sp), 9.47.

US PGA TOUR: Money winners (all US): 1, R Mediate, $403,624 (£215,000); 2, C Pavin, $368,400; 3, L Wadkins, $332,000; 4, P Azinger, $322,740; 5, S Pate, $253,818; 6, N Henke, $248,291; 7, C Strange, $246,806; 8, J Blake, $238,500; 9, R Tway, $232,063; 10, J Cook, $229,586.

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida: US Ryder Cup points: 1, P Azinger, 466.250pts; 2, F Couples, 455.000; 3, P Stewart, 391.250; 4, W Levi, 382.500; 5, L Wadkins, 377.689; 6, T Simpson, 366.250; 7, H Irwin, 365.000; 8, M Calcavecchia, 342.500; 9, T Kite, 314.643; 10, G Morgan, 313.750.

REAL TENNIS

HARDWICK HOUSE: Army bt Bristol and Bath, 2-1.

RUGBY FIVES

SCHOOLS MATCH: Felsted 132, Oundle 122.

FOOTBALL

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Fourth division: Postponed: Doncaster v Torquay.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Chelsea 2, Charlton 0.

Late results on Monday

FA CUP: Sixth round: West Ham United 2, Everton 1.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Kidderminster v Merthyr.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Huddersfield 0, Sunderland 2; Leicester 0, Liverpool 6.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton 3, Bishop's Stortford 1; Redbridge Forest 2, Barking 1. First division: Harlow 0, Yeading 1.

LARCHIMAGE WINDOWS CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Chelmsford 2, Tamworth 0 (Chelmsford win 3-2 on agg).

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde 3, Bishop Auckland 2. First division: Emley 2, Bridlington Town 0.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Dorchester 0, Waterlooville 3. Southern division: Salisbury 1, Fareham 1.

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Wealdstone 6, Slough 0. Presidents Cup: Semi-final: Southend 2, Cambridge United 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Plymouth Argyle 3, Bideford 0.

SCHOOLS MATCH: English schools adidas county championship: Derbyshire 4, Nottinghamshire 1.

SOVIET LEAGUE: Dynamo Kiev 1, Torpedo Moscow 3; Dynamo Moscow 1, Shakhtyor Donetsk 1; Metallurg Zaporozhe 2, Spartak Moscow 1; Ararat Yerevan 1, Dynamo Minsk 0; Spartak Vladikavkaz 2, Lokomotiv Moscow 2; Pamir Dushanbe 0, Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk 0; CSKA 4, Metallist Kharkov 0; Pakhtakor Tashkent 0, Chernomorets Odessa 0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
First division
Coventry v Luton (7.45)
Soton v Man Utd (all ticket)

Second division
Oxford Utd v West Ham
Sheffield Wed v Brighton (7.45)
West Bromwich v Plymouth

Third division
Exeter v Huddersfield
Stoke v Crewe

Fourth division
Hereford v Lincoln
Maidstone v Stockport (8.0)

GM Vauxhall Conference
Gateshead v Telford

Zenith Data Systems Cup
Northern semi-finals
Barnsley v Everton (7.45)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fifth round
Dundee Utd v Dundee (8.0)

B and Q Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Dunfermline

First division
Hamilton v Meadowbank

FA VASE: Sixth round, second replay: Trowbridge v Hythe.

AC DELCO CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Redbridge Forest v Carshalton.

LARCHIMAGE WINDOWS CUP: Fourth round, second leg: Hythe v Waterlooville.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: First division: Molesey v Dulwich. Second division south: Petersfield Utd v Leatherhead.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Moor Green v Dover (7.45). Midland division: Newport AFC v Barry. Southern division: Burnham v Corinthian; Sudbury v Buckingham.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: South Liverpool v Chorley.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle v Sheffield Utd (7.0); Notm Forest v Wolverhampton (7.0). Second division: Grimsby v Wigan (7.0); Hull v Notts County (7.0); Middlesbrough v York (7.0); Port Vale v Burnley (7.0). Postponed: Bradford v Mansfield.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Fulham v Millwall (2.0); Watford v Norwich; Crystal Palace v Arsenal (at Selhurst Park).

PREMIER INTER-LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Burton v Witton.

FAI HARP LAGER: Challenge Cup: Derry City v St Patrick's Athletic.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division: Cwmbran v Briton Ferry.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES: Floodlight Trophy: Knowsley v Colwyn Bay; Clitheroe v Flixton.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Chard; Torrington v Liskeard Athletic; Welton v Radstock. Les Phillips Cup: Chippenham v Taunton.

WEEKLY WYNNER LEAGUE: President's Cup: Guiseley v Maltby MW.

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Brentford v Wealdstone; Wokingham v Southend; Wycombe v Barnet; Colchester v Leyton Orient.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Abertillery v Maesteg (7.0); Coventry v Nuneaton (7.0).

HOSPITALS CUP: Final: St Mary's v The London (Old Deer Park, 2.30).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Middlesex County Clubs v Hertfordshire County Clubs (at Centaurs RFC, 4.0).

BRITISH POLYTECHNICS CUP: Final: Newcastle v Oxford (at Fylde, 2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bradford v Wakefield, St Helens v Oldham; Wigan v Hull (8.0). Second division: Halifax v Barrow; Salford v Chorley.

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Yonex All English Championships (Wembley Arena).

TENNIS: Serve and Volley LTA men's satellite circuit (Bramhall).

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Pickard picked to inspire a British revival

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

AFTER 16 years as a frustrated observer of Britain's tennis decline, Tony Pickard has returned to his old job as Davis Cup captain. It will be a blessed relief to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) that those bluff and authoritative Midlands tones, which have for so long disturbed the dreams of the tennis hierarchy, will now be used to awaken the sleeping giant of British tennis.

Quite apart from the international expertise Pickard will bring to his new task, after seven years of guiding Stefan Edberg to two Wimbledon titles and to No. 1 in the world, his appointment is the clearest indication yet that the LTA has adopted a new motto for the Nineties: "Let bygones be bygones."

Three further appointments are due in the coming months — a full-time Davis Cup coach and two new managers for the men's and women's games — as part of a radical restructuring of the national training department under Richard Lewis. It would be a surprise if, now Pickard has turned gamekeeper, others like John Lloyd did not follow him back to the fold.

Just ten days ago, Lloyd said in *The Times* he would only be prepared to come back if he had respect for the people he was working for. Like his good friend Brian Clough, Pickard commands respect not affection. Demands it, in fact, as plenty in the British game will find out over the next three years — the initial term of Pickard's office.

Yesterday, amid the handshakes, the applause and the praise, there were brief glimpses of the uncompromising message of hard work and self-belief which Pickard has been preaching in exile. "If the players want to learn, I think I can teach them a lot," he said. "I believe I can create motivation and make players want to succeed. It's a question of attitude; making them believe they're not losers. Stefan was a miserable young man when I first had him."

Brief glimpses, too, of his dry sense of humour. Asked about his time in the wilderness, he replied: "The wilderness has been pretty good to me." Pickard's priority will be to lead the British team back from a much bleaker wilderness and into the world group of the Davis Cup, starting with the tie against Poland in May.

But he will have a wider brief than that, helping with the development of the promising new generation of British players such as Miles Maclagan, Andrew Richardson and James Baily, searching for talent as he has done quietly for several years now, and being involved in all the leading appointments.

"I don't see it as a part-time job; it is 100 per cent commitment," he said. "My job is to get out there and spend time with the young players, and I will give it as much time as I think it needs." He will also choose the British team for the European Cup.

Pickard's new task clearly has the blessing of the world No. 1 and will not, in the short term at least, affect the time he spends with the Swede, who has travelled more on his own over the last two years.

"There is no way I would take this on without Stefan's knowledge," Pickard said. "When I spoke to him, he told me I was taking on a tough job." Doubtless, he will reflect on that many times over the next three years and wish he could write the name Edberg at the head of his team sheet.

That hindrance aside, Pickard will tackle his awesome new duties in a typically positive frame of mind. "I have never done anything without thinking I could succeed," he said. "There is talent out there; it just needs pointing in the right direction.

"I would hope to develop a team good enough to get into the world group and stay there. If we are going to get three or four players in the top 75 in the world as well, we need a few breaks and the right kind of coaching."

Only one question still hung in the air. Why, at the age of 55, 16 years after he was last Davis Cup captain, is Pickard willing to take on such a thankless task? "Because they asked me." Maybe someone should have popped the question a little earlier.

TONY PICKARD

Born: September, 1935.

Career: 1958-63: Davis Cup player 1958 to 63. 1972: Captained British team to victory in Galea Cup for Under-21 international teams. 1973-74: Davis Cup captain. 1984: Began working with Stefan Edberg, taking him to two Wimbledon titles (1988 and 1990) and to No. 1 in the world in August 1990.

Married with three children, he has also enjoyed a successful career in the building and sports goods industries.

Pickard: backing Britain

The big-race favourite who saved the bookmakers

Basking in glory: Successful jockey Jimmy Frost, right, with Champion Hurdle winner Morley Street at Cheltenham

Gambler settles with Customs

By Richard Evans

A FEARLESS Irish gambler facing arrest in Britain for alleged VAT offences agreed to pay Customs and Excise £500,000 on the eve of the Cheltenham festival — and was immediately rewarded with a £1 million-plus payout in the opening race of the meeting.

The remarkable deal, which enabled Noel Furlong to step on to British soil legally for the first time in seven years was announced by Customs officials only hours before Destriero, owned by his wife Betty, stormed up the famous Cheltenham hill to win the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices Hurdle.

Furlong, who is reputed to have won £2 million from one race in January when The Illiad landed The Ladbroke Hurdle, would have taken £10 million out of the betting ring yesterday if The Illiad had been victorious in the Champion Hurdle. However, a mistake four flights from home put paid to his chances and saved the bookmakers.

Furlong, a carpet dealer and reputedly Ireland's biggest gambler, said he had reached agreement with the Customs so he could attend Cheltenham. "It is the only reason I settled. Otherwise why bother?" he said.

A Customs spokeswoman confirmed yesterday: "In 1984 the commissioners of Customs and Excise insituted proceedings against Noel Furlong for alleged VAT offences and an arrest warrant was issued when Mr Furlong did not surrender to bail. Following discussions between the commissioners of Customs and Excise and representatives of Mr Furlong the commissioners have decided to settle the matter by use of their statutory powers and to stay proceedings. In settlement a sum of £500,000 has been agreed, for which the commissioners were prepared to stay proceedings and withdraw the arrest warrant."

Negotiations between Furlong's representatives and Customs have been carried out over the past fortnight.

"Destriero is the best horse in the world in my estimation," Furlong said. Purchased for £55,000 on the recommendation of Mick O'Toole, Destriero is already being lined up for next year's Champion Hurdle by Furlong.

With a seven-figure sum in his pocket following the Supreme Novices win, Furlong had £500,000 running on The Illiad. Bookies ran for cover and his price was cut from 12-1 to 11-2.

The big bookmakers' representatives were genuinely concerned and, asked about the effect of their potential liabilities, one commented, half-jokingly: "We will cease to exist." Morley Street saved them from disaster, although the well-backed 4-1 favourite can hardly have been a good result for the layers.

Toby Balding, who has trained failed chasers to win the top hurdling prize twice in the last three years, said: "Morley Street is an amazing horse. He beat a St Leger winner on the flat, won the Breeders' Cup chase in the States and now is champion hurdler. That is a fair performance from one animal."

Opinions were divided about the merit of the performance in a race which attracted the biggest field for more than 20 years. With his high cruising speed, Morley Street was never out of the firing line.

He was four lengths clear halfway up the hill but then started to waver to the stands rail and eventually scrambled home by a fast diminishing one-and-a-half lengths from Nomadic Way, last year's runner-up.

In the Waterford Castle Arkle Trophy Remittance Man's superb jumping finally told against Uncle Ernie over a trip arguably short of his best.

Champion report, page 38

Welsh exiles cancel games

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE growing and welcome trend by rugby union clubs of taking their own disciplinary measures has found its latest disciple in London Welsh: the Exiles, who had three players from different teams sent off last weekend, have cancelled all fixtures this Saturday to bring home to their players how seriously they regard the matter.

Brigadier Rolph James, the club chairman, with the unanimous backing of the committee, decided on drastic action bearing in mind as well that two of the club's players had been sent off earlier in the season; with the total brought to five the Welsh would surely have attracted the attention of the Middlesex disciplinary committee.

Only one first-team player, Lee Thomas, was involved last weekend, with another offender from the second XV and a colt. "The good name of London Welsh has been brought into disrepute by these incidents and it cannot be tolerated," James said.

"I hope that this action will bring it home to players and team managers alike that the committee will not condone indiscipline, on or off the field, and that this should serve as a warning regarding future conduct.

"I very much regret any inconvenience caused to the clubs due to play us."

The Welsh were due to play Rosslyn Park who took exactly similar action earlier this season, when a seventh player was dismissed in October.

This season, too, Matson, the junior Gloucestershire club, imposed a fortnight's ban on themselves after seven players had been sent off.

☐ The sportswear manufacturer, Umbro International, has signed a £4 million contract with the Scottish Union to market authentic jerseys, shorts, socks and training wear carrying the SRU's logo. The deal, which is over five years, is the first such licencing agreement between a manufacturer and one of the five nations unions. However, Umbro is in negotiation with the Welsh Rugby Union over a similar deal.

Underwood glory, page 40

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Space limited for Charlton hearing

MOST Charlton Athletic supporters will be barred from a vital meeting to decide whether the second division club can return to its former home at The Valley.

Greenwich council has fixed the date for Charlton's revised Valley planning application to be considered on April 2 — but no more than 100 people will be able to attend the planning and transport committee meeting at Woolwich Town Hall.

After council officials, club representatives and local residents are allocated tickets, there may be room left for only a few dozen supporters. The council is concerned about the possibility of intimidation preventing free debate.

"We want a proper debate on the issue," Julian Schola, a council spokesman said. "It is supposed to be a proper discussion not a rally. We had quite a few complaints from people who said they felt intimidated when the original Charlton application was rejected."

The town hall was packed with Charlton supporters in January last year when the council turned down the original club plans to end its ground-sharing scheme with Crystal Palace and return to a redeveloped Valley.

There is one hope for supporters eager to be involved when a decision is made on a return to the ground abandoned by the club in September 1985 — the meeting could be relayed to another venue. "It could be difficult, but we would consider any proposal to relay the meeting elsewhere," Schola said.

Rick Everitt, a committee member of Charlton supporters' club and editor of the club's magazine, said: "A lot of people are very upset about the limit on numbers. We are being hassled for tickets already but there is nothing we can do. We are keen for as many people as possible to turn out on the night to show the strength of public feeling over Charlton's return to The Valley, but the real priority is for the club to receive planning permission and get back to The Valley in time for next season."

☐ Southampton's hopes of moving from The Dell to a purpose-built 30,000-seat stadium on the edge of the city could fall at the first hurdle.

The club has already announced plans for a £50 million development on a plot at Stoneham which is owned by Hampshire county council, but the council is angry that Southampton has not made an official approach and now says the scheme conflicts with its long-term plans for the area.

A spokesman for the council said the interests of protecting open countryside from further building would have to be weighed against the benefits of the football club plan.

FA threatens to add to Hodges's problems

GLYN Hodges discovered yesterday that he will face a charge from the FA for bringing the game into disrepute following a butting incident involving Gordon Armstrong, of Sunderland, at Roker Park. The Welsh international, who is on loan from Crystal Palace, has already been fined a maximum two weeks' wages, of approximately £2,000, by Sheffield United.

The FA has written to Hodges after studying the version of the referee, Mike Reed, of the incident that happened as the players walked to the dressing-rooms after last Saturday's match. "The referee's report mentions a butting incident," an FA spokesman said. "Whatever the club have done about it is entirely up to them, but we have written to the player."

Hodges has been instrumental in United's remarkable revival, which has taken them out of the relegation zone after failing to register a single win in their first 16 League games.

Dave Bassett, the United manager, who was in charge of Hodges at Wimbledon and then Watford, said: "Whatever the cause of the incident, his behaviour fell well short of the high standards expected of a Sheffield United player, and we will not condone any unacceptable behaviour.

"The maximum penalty that the club can impose is a fine of two weeks' wages and I will not shrink from my responsibilities. Accordingly, I have imposed the maximum fine on Hodges. Although further action can be taken by the FA, the matter is now closed as far as the club is concerned."

Hodges, who is expected to join United for £400,000 at the end of his loan period, has accepted the fine and also apologised to the club and supporters for his action.

Torquay United have signed Andy Rowland, the Southampton forward, aged 25, for £25,000. The former Torquay Grammar Schoolboy, who joined Southampton in 1989, has been unable to win a first team place at The Dell.

The Aston Villa central defender, Kent Nielsen, is facing a fitness battle to maintain his ever-present league record this season for Tottenham Hotspur's visit on Saturday. The Danish international suffered a back injury during the club's recent visit to Kong Kong and aggravated it in last Saturday's home defeat by Luton. He is having extensive treatment.

Villa are hopeful that Tony Daley will finally return on Saturday after being troubled for the past two months with a hamstring injury.

Brian Clough has conceded that he would swap Nottingham Forest's place in the semi-finals of the FA Cup for a top-four position in the first division. "At this point in time if we were in a high enough position to qualify for European football, I would happily exchange that, not only for our semi-final place this season, but also for the chances of reaching the semi-finals next year," he said.

Forest have slipped to twelfth place in the first division and are only six points above second to bottom Sunderland. "Our league position is causing me a lot of concern," Clough said. "We have Manchester United coming to our place on Saturday followed by three difficult away games at Arsenal, Everton and Wimbledon.

"If we do not get enough points out of the next 12, we could find ourselves near the bottom of the first division. Before you know it in this game you can be in deep trouble and I am concerned that doesn't happen to us.

"It's not difficult to see where we have gone wrong because we have been beaten by a lot of the teams below us in the table. If we can't hold our own against them, what chance do we have when we come up against the Liverpools and Arsenals of this world?"

West Ham's target, page 41

Chairman Prean accused

By Richard Eaton

JOHN Prean, the chairman of the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA), has been accused of bringing the game into disrepute for interfering in the election of his successor. The disciplinary committee of the ETTA has invited him to respond to the allegations, which have come from Brian Halliday — one of the association's national councillors.

Prean may appear before the committee in the next four weeks and he has until tomorrow to respond to the charge, which follows his electioneering letter to more than 300 league and county secretaries. It claimed that Alan Ransome, the deputy chairman, is unsuitable to succeed him because of his widespread commercial interests.

"If I were one of his trade competitors, I would immediately withdraw all support, financial and in kind, from the association once Alan were elected," the letter said. In a recent issue of *Table Tennis Magazine*, Prean also suggests £50,000 of sponsorship might be lost to the ETTA if Ransome became chairman.

Prean could respond to the disciplinary committee in writing, in which case it could make a decision with or without a hearing. If it is dissatisfied with his answer, the committee has the power to suspend, which could end the last four months of Prean's chairmanship. He is due to relinquish it in July.

It seems more likely that Prean will contest the allegations in person. "They are totally baseless," he said yesterday. "I stand by my every word. My comments are completely fair. There is nothing to which any sensible person would object. This is very foolish and an absolute disgrace."

Ransome has, in turn, denied Prean's allegations about his unsuitability for the chairmanship and is favourite to win the election contest against the other candidates — Richard Scruton and Ralph Gunnion. The result should be known on Sunday.

Beaten Davis vows to stay

From Steve Acteson in Rotterdam

AT 2.11am British time yesterday and after six hours of combat, Steve Davis, the world snooker No. 2, took another step downwards while Cliff Thorburn, his fellow former world champion, took a giant stride upwards.

Thorburn won their protracted fifth-round European Open match in Rotterdam 5-4, having made two centuries of 136 and 101 and, more importantly, holding his nerve in the deciding frame with a run of 40.

It was only the second time in two years that Thorburn, of Canada, who is provisionally ranked in the low forties for next season, had reached the quarter-finals of a ranking event.

With the world champion, Stephen Hendry, beaten 5-0 earlier in the day by world No. 59, Mark Johnston-Allen, Davis was the only player ranked in the top four still in contention. Here was a golden opportunity for him to win his first title of the season. Davis, however is vulnerable to all comers at present and his decline is accelerating.

"It would be easy to quit but I refuse to give up," he said. "You've got to fight, you've got to graft and there is nothing else I could do that gives me the buzz that I get from playing snooker.

"I'm technically deficient at present and until my game becomes stronger I'm susceptible. Hopefully it will not last forever and I'm prepared to wait. But I'm not going to say when I might start winning titles again, only a mug would do that."

Thorburn, happily recovered from his near-fatal illness of last October, said: "That is the best I've felt for three years. Suddenly the game feels natural again. Steve Davis is the best player in the game's history. People say he's gone, well I'd like to be gone like that. But at least now I've now got my old attitude back."

RESULTS: Fifth round: Monday: D Mountjoy (Wales) bt W Thorne (Eng) 5-4. Frame scores (Mountjoy first): 74-33, 84-7, 51-77, 88-32, 12-83, 69-52, 3-69, 71-[illegible], 45-30. C Thorburn (Can) bt S Davis (Eng) 5-4. Frame scores (Thorburn first): [illegible], 82-18, 136-0, 32-74, 102-16, 28-74, [illegible], 14-110, 88-42.